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The Voice

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

American Association of the Deaf-Blind

Editor

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article	Pages
EDITORIAL BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD.....	1-2
HELEN IS GONE BY DENNIS J. SCHREIBER.....	2-4
FROM THE FUN CORNER BY ASLAUG HAVILAND.....	5-7
NAD CENTENNIAL CONVENTION BY LINDA ANNALA.....	7-9
INFORMAL AADB MEETINGS AT NAD CONFERENCE BY STEVEN EHRLICH.....	9-11
THE SECOND HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE ON DEAF-BLINDNESS BY ELEANOR E. MACDONALD.....	11-17
ENCHANTED HILLS CAMP FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS BY DELORES FOLLETTE.....	18-19
ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD.....	20-22
POSITION PAPER: TWO-FOR-ONE AIRFARE BY LINDA ANNALA.....	22-23
PROFILE: JOHN BOYER BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD.....	23-25

EDITORIAL

THIS IS THE FIRST ISSUE OF "THE VOICE" TO APPEAR IN SOME TIME, AND IT IS THE FIRST UNDER MY EDITORSHIP. I AM SURE MANY OF YOU WILL FIND THAT I HAVE MADE MISTAKES, OR THAT I HAVE NOT INCLUDED MATERIAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE MAGAZINE. IF SO, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, FOR UNLESS YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT, I WILL NOT KNOW, AND YOU WILL GET THE SAME THING ALL OVER AGAIN.

THIS ISSUE IS, OF COURSE, LATE. THIS WAS IN PART DUE TO MY INEXPERIENCE AND PARTLY DUE TO A BAD CASE OF PNEUMONIA, WHICH I MANAGED TO CATCH IN AUGUST. I SUSPECT, TOO, THAT THE DECEMBER ISSUE WILL BE LATE, BUT PERHAPS NOT AS LATE AS THIS. I HOPE THE MARCH ISSUE WILL APPEAR ON TIME.

I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE READERS TO SUBMIT ARTICLES, INTERESTING STORIES ABOUT YOURSELVES, OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU FEEL WILL INTEREST READERS. I WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO INCLUDE BRIEF PROFILES OF DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE, SUCH AS THE ONE ON JOHN BOYER THAT APPEARS IN THIS ISSUE. BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION THAT HAS COME UP: DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE "THE VOICE" IN LARGE-PRINT OR IN BRAILLE? WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU WOULD PREFER BRAILLE BEFORE WE CAN INVESTIGATE WAYS OF ARRANGING FOR THIS. UNLESS YOU WRITE AND REQUEST OTHERWISE, YOU WILL RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE IN LARGE-PRINT. FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE BRAILLE, WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE.

"THE VOICE" WILL, I HOPE, BECOME A FORUM FOR YOU TO EXPRESS YOUR IDEAS. ARE THERE THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE ARRANGED FOR OUR NEXT CONVENTION,

SCHEDULED NEXT SUMMER FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.?
LET US HEAR FROM YOU! YOU CAN WRITE TO ME IN
PRINT OR BRAILLE, BUT PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIVE
YOUR NAME AND RETURN ADDRESS.

ALSO, IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS NOT ON OUR MAIL-
ING LIST, BUT WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE "THE VOICE"
EACH QUARTER, PLEASE SEND THE ADDRESS TO ME, IN-
DICATING WHETHER LARGE-PRINT OR BRAILLE COPY IS
PREFERRED.

HELEN IS GONE

BY DENNIS J. SCHREIBER, PRESIDENT

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE NEWLY-
CONSTITUTED AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-
BLIND TOOK PLACE AT PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE
BLIND IN WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS, JUNE 22-29,
1980. THE CENTENNIAL OBSERVATION OF THE BIRTH
OF HELEN KELLER DREW AN ASSEMBLAGE OF 300 DEAF-
BLIND PERSONS AND THEIR GUIDES/COMPANIONS/
INTERPRETERS FROM 30 AMERICAN STATES AND 2
CANADIAN PROVINCES. UNDOUBTEDLY, THE WEEK-
LONG FESTIVITIES CONSTITUTED THE LARGEST GATHER-
ING OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IN THE WORLD, TO DATE.
ENTITLED, "SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEEDS OF THE DEAF-
BLIND OF AMERICA," THE ANNUAL OPEN CONCLAVE OF
DEAF-BLIND PERSONS WAS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND, THE
HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS
AND ADULTS, AND PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.
DELEGATIONS OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS AND THEIR COM-
PANIONS HAD BEEN ORGANIZED FROM ILLINOIS, NEW
YORK, OHIO, MINNESOTA, COLORADO, TEXAS, LOUISI-
ANA AND CALIFORNIA, WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL
AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND AND DEAF.

A WELCOME TO MASSACHUSETTS WAS EXTENDED BY ELEANORA ALBASINI, CHAIRPERSON OF THE 1980 HOST COMMITTEE. CHARLES C. WOODCOCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, WELCOMED THE DELEGATES TO THE CITADEL OF EDUCATION FOR THE DEAF-BLIND. THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS WAS DELIVERED BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD, DIRECTOR OF THE DEAF-BLIND COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM AT OHLONE COLLEGE IN FREMONT, CALIFORNIA. THE PASSAGE OF A MOTION EMPOWERING THE PRESIDENT TO SEEK A TWO-FOR-ONE AIRFARE FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS WAS PROMPTED BY THE APPARENT DISCRIMINATION OF U.S. AIR-ALLEGHENY AIRLINES' REFUSAL TO GRANT PASSAGE TO JAMES AND DOROTHY HOGAN, OF JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA ON A FLIGHT FROM LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY TO BOSTON.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD BY DEAF-BLIND PERSONS AND INTERPRETERS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, RECREATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND SOCIAL SERVICES. THESE DISCUSSIONS REPRESENT A BASE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL PLATFORM TO BE PRESENTED IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL IN 1981 WHEN THE ASSOCIATION HOLDS ITS SECOND CONCLAVE AT GALLAUDET COLLEGE FOR THE DEAF TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS, DECREED BY THE UNITED NATIONS' GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 1981.

THE AADB DISCUSSED AND PASSED MOTIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLICATION OF A NATIONAL MAGAZINE AND THE ORGANIZATION OF STATE CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED UPON INVOLVEMENT OF ALL ECHELONS OF THE DEAF-BLIND COMMUNITY AT THE STATE LEVEL, INCLUDING DEAF-BLIND ADULTS, REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL EDUCATORS IN ALL FIELDS OF RELATED WORK, PARENTS OF DEAF-BLIND CHILDREN, AND CONCERNED CITIZENS.

CONVERSATIONS, PARTIES AND TOURS MADE UP MUCH OF THE REMAINING ACTIVITIES. ON FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 27th, A CAVALCADE OF BUSES AND CARS LEFT PERKINS TO ATTEND THE CENTENNIAL CONGRESS AND A PANEL CONDUCTED BY LOUIS J. BETTICA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTH AND ADULTS.

AS A CLIMAX STATEMENT TO THE MORE THAN 400 PERSONS GATHERED IN QUEST OF DIRECTION FOR THE DEAF-BLIND OF AMERICA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND STATED IN PART: "HELEN KELLER IS GONE. SHE HAS JOINED THE MARCHING COLUMN. THOSE OF US SHE HAS LEFT BEHIND BEAR THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE--THE CENTURY AHEAD. WE HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP AND MANY MILES TO GO."

ON FRIDAY NIGHT, OUR NATIONAL BANQUET WAS ADDRESSED BY ROBERT PETTY, OF OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF-BLIND, WHO ENCOURAGED STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DEAF-BLIND PERSONS AND PARENTS OF DEAF-BLIND CHILDREN AND OUTLINED HIS HOPES FOR THE FUTURE. THE SPEAKERS' TABLE INCLUDED MARTIN A. ADLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTH AND ADULTS, AND REV. ANTHONY F. LABAU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE XAVIER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND. A COLLECTION OF \$2,600 WAS TAKEN AS A SYMBOL OF FAITH FOR THE FUTURE. THE CONVENTION CONCLUDED ON SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 28th, FOLLOWED BY AN ALL-DAY BARBECUE ON THE LAWN OF PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

THE OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, AND SUPPORTERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND WILL LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER CENTURY OF PROGRESS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

FROM THE FUN CORNER

BY ASLAUG HAVILAND, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

A NATIONAL CONVENTION IS NOT ALL BUSINESS, ALTHOUGH A LOT OF IT IS. PEOPLE DO MANAGE TO GET TOGETHER AND HAVE FUN, TOO.

THE CONVENTIONS FOR DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE, WHICH HAVE BECOME SO POPULAR, ARE NO EXCEPTION. I DO NOT THINK IT IS AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT WHAT MOST DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE LOOK FORWARD TO, WHEN IT IS CONVENTION TIME, IS MEETING SO MANY OLD FRIENDS AND MAKING NEW ONES. THIS IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL TO US DEAF-BLIND--TO MEET AND MAKE CONTACT WITH OTHERS, NOT TO MENTION THE JOY OF BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS, EVERY DAY, FOR A WHOLE WEEK.

THE LATEST SUCH CONVENTION, HELD IN WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS THIS PAST JUNE, FEATURED ABOUT 120 DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS GATHERED TOGETHER FOR A WEEK OF FUN AND RELAXATION. THIS WAS POSSIBLY THE LARGEST NUMBER OF DEAF-BLIND ADULTS EVER TO ASSEMBLE IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME.

I MYSELF DID NOT ENCOUNTER ANY COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS. I BELIEVE THAT 90% OF THE DEAF-BLIND AT THE CONVENTION USED THE MANUAL ALPHABET, AND MANY ALSO KNEW SIGN LANGUAGE. I MET ONLY TWO DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE WHO DEPENDED ON THE TELLATOUGH ALONE FOR COMMUNICATION. BUT THESE PEOPLE WERE NEVER LEFT ALONE--THERE WERE ALWAYS MANY PEOPLE AROUND WHO WERE HAPPY TO CHAT WITH THEM USING THE TELLATOUGH.

I THOUGHT THAT THE PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND WAS THE PERFECT SETTING FOR A CONVENTION OF DEAF-

BLIND PEOPLE, WITH ITS LARGE LAWNS AND GARDENS WHERE PEOPLE COULD SIT IN THE SHADE AND VISIT TOGETHER. AND THERE WAS THE NORTH HALL, A BRIGHTLY LIT RECREATION ROOM WITH COMFORTABLE CHAIRS AND COFFEE TABLES EVERYWHERE, JUST RIGHT FOR OUR EVENING PARTIES. HERE WE COULD SAMPLE VARIOUS KINDS OF GOODIES, VISIT TOGETHER AND TALK OUR HANDS OFF. THOSE WHO COULD HEAR A BIT COULD ENJOY THE MUSIC AND DANCE. IN SHORT, WE ALL HAD A BALL UP THERE EVERY EVENING.

ONE EVENING, WHILE AT THE PARTY, A TOTALLY DEAF-BLIND MAN CAME TO ME AND ASKED WHERE HE COULD GET A DRINK AND SOME CRACKERS. I POINTED IN THE DIRECTION I THOUGHT THE BIG TABLE WAS LOCATED, WHERE HE COULD GET THESE GOODIES, BUT ALAS, I POINTED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION! THE FELLOW WALKED STRAIGHT OUT OF THE ROOM AND INTO THE HALL, WHERE SOMEONE FOUND HIM WANDERING AROUND AND RESCUED HIM. GEE, WAS I EMBARRASSED WHEN I LEARNED OF MY MISTAKE!

THERE WERE MANY OTHER HIGHLIGHTS TOO, SUCH AS THE TRIPS WE TOOK OFF-CAMPUS. SOME OF US WERE ABLE TO VISIT HISTORIC PLACES, WHILE OTHERS WERE ABLE TO GO SHOPPING. MANY OF US MANAGED TO GO INTO BOSTON, DOWN NEAR THE HARBOR, WHERE WE HAD DINNER AT ONE OF THE FAMOUS SEAFOOD RESTAURANTS.

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS FOR A DEAF-BLIND PERSON TO BE ABLE TO DO ALL THESE THINGS BECAUSE SO MANY OF US ARE LEFT MOSTLY TO OURSELVES BECAUSE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS TOO BUSY. SO IT WAS THAT DURING THIS WEEK IN WATERTOWN WE ALL HAD THE WONDERFULLY FULL SENSE OF BEING WANTED. THERE, WE KNEW WHAT IT WAS TO BE PART OF LIFE, TO TAKE PART IN WHAT WAS GOING ON, BECAUSE THIS WAS OUR WEEK.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE FUTURE HOST COMMITTEES

WILL KEEP THIS IN MIND - THAT SOCIAL GATHERINGS LIKE THIS ARE AS IMPORTANT TO US AS ANY BUSINESS MEETINGS CAN BE.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU WILL HAVE RETURNED FROM THIS CONVENTION AND TOLD YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS THAT YOU HAD A BALL, AND THAT YOU PLAN TO DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR. NEXT YEAR WE WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN, THIS TIME IN WASHINGTON, D C., AND THIS WILL BE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO SPEND A MOST HAPPY WEEK TOGETHER. ONLY NEXT TIME THERE WILL BE EVEN MORE OF US.

NAD CENTENNIAL CONVENTION
CINCINNATI, OHIO - JUNE 29 TO JULY 5

BY LINDA ANNALA, MEMBER - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOR THE DUAL CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (NAD) AND THE 100th BIRTHDAY OF HELEN KELLER, APPROXIMATELY 3,500 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE NAD CENTENNIAL CONVENTION IN CINCINNATI, OHIO, ON JUNE 29 THROUGH JULY 5, 1980.

TWO OF THE WORKSHOPS, PRESENTED AS PART OF THE CONVENTION, MIGHT BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO YOU. THE AMERICAN DEAFNESS AND REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION HAD A WORKSHOP, JULY 2nd, ON "COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES WITH DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE." THE FOUR PRESENTORS INVOLVED WITH THIS WORKSHOP WERE: ROD MACDONALD, PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE DEAF-BLIND COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM AT OHLONE COLLEGE IN FREMONT, CALIFORNIA; ELE MACDONALD, SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS IN SAN FRANCISCO, CAL-

IFORNIA; LINDA ANNALA, COORDINATOR OF THE LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF - PROGRAM TO DEAF AND VISUALLY-IMPAIRED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA; AND LAURA THOMAS, REHABILITATION COUNSELOR AT THE HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER IN SANDS POINT, NEW YORK. EACH PRESENTOR ADDRESSED A SPECIFIC AREA OF DEAF-BLINDNESS, SINCE THERE ARE BASICALLY FOUR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF DEAF-BLINDNESS. IT WAS NOTED THAT SEVERAL DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE ATTENDED THIS PRESENTATION.

ANOTHER WORKSHOP, JULY 4th, WAS ON THE THEME, "1980: HELEN KELLER'S 100th BIRTHDAY: WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HEARING/VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE OF TODAY?". THIS WORKSHOP WAS CHAIRED BY ARTHUR ROEHRIG, DIRECTOR OF HEARING/VISION IMPAIRED PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AT GALLAUDET COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE WORKSHOP HAD A PANEL OF SEVERAL DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE WHO EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS OF MISS HELEN KELLER. THIS WORKSHOP, ALSO, WAS WELL ATTENDED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE FIELD OF DEAF-BLINDNESS.

DURING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF'S CELEBRATION, SEVERAL MEMBERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND HAD A CHANCE TO MEET INFORMALLY AND TO GET THEIR HEADS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS--TO PAVE A SMOOTHER ROAD FOR AADB. THE PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THESE MEETINGS WERE: ROD MACDONALD, EDITH SIMONS, STEVE EHRLICH, ART ROEHRIG, AND LINDA ANNALA. ALSO PRESENT WERE SEVERAL INTERPRETERS AND INTERESTED FRIENDS.

THE DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW FRIENDSHIPS WITH MANY OF THE NAD CONVENTIONEERS AND TO PROMOTE THE WORTHY CAUSE OF DEAF-BLINDNESS IN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

THE DEAF. A PROPOSAL WILL BE SENT TO NAD FOR CONSIDERATION: A REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE TO ASK NAD FOR PRINTING PRIVILEGES AND EXPENSES MATCHED BY NAD AND AADB.

INFORMAL AADB MEETINGS AT THE NAD CONFERENCE
BY STEVEN EHRLICH, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

THE CENTENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF (NAD) WAS HELD DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 29 TO JULY 5, 1980, TO CELEBRATE ITS 100th ANNIVERSARY. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE AADB ATTENDED THIS CONVENTION, INCLUDING ROD AND ELE MACDONALD, ARTHUR ROEHRIG, LINDA ANNALA, EDITH SIMONS, YVONNE MORGAN, LAURA THOMAS AND MYSELF. OTHER NON-MEMBER DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE ALSO ATTENDED.

WHILE WE WERE AT THE NAD CONVENTION, WE NOTICED MANY GOOD POINTS AND IDEAS, AND THUS, TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE TWO INFORMAL MEETINGS TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE AADB CONVENTIONS. SOME OF THESE IDEAS WERE:

- 1) HAVE EXHIBITS DEMONSTRATING TECHNICAL DEVICES, SERVICES, APPLIANCES, AND AIDS FOR THE DEAF-BLIND.
- 2) USE CLOSED CIRCUIT T.V. DURING THE MEETINGS TO MAXIMIZE AND IMPROVE DIRECT COMMUNICATION.
- 3) SEND A QUESTIONNAIRE TO ALL AADB MEMBERS TO GET THEIR IDEAS FOR THE AGENDA AND ACTIVITIES.

4) EDITH SIMONS SHOULD ASK THE NAD FOR \$750 TO HELP FUND "THE VOICE" AND \$50 TO HELP PREPARE A BROCHURE EXPLAINING THE PURPOSES OF THE AADB. (NOTE: AS NOTED IN THE LETTER DATED AUGUST 28, 1980 FROM AADB PRESIDENT, DENNIS SCHREIBER, THIS REQUEST WAS DENIED SINCE THE AADB IS NOT AN AFFILIATE MEMBER OF THE MUTUAL PLAN UMBRELLA PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.)

5) ROD MACDONALD AND LINDA ANNALA SHOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING SOME FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN DEAFNESS AND REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION.

6) SET UP AN INTERPRETER TRAINING WORKSHOP AT GALLAUDET COLLEGE BEFORE THE 1981 AADB CONVENTION TO INSTRUCT THE INTERPRETERS AND GUIDES IN SPECIAL METHODS USED FOR THE DEAF-BLIND.

7) ROD MACDONALD SHOULD SURVEY THE MEMBERSHIP TO DETERMINE THOSE WHO PREFER "THE VOICE" IN LARGE-PRINT OR BRAILLE.

8) ARTHUR ROEHRIG IS TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE GALLAUDET COLLEGE PRINTING FACILITIES.

9) A COMMITTEE OF CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS AND DEAF-BLIND PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT INTERPRETING SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO COORDINATE INTERPRETING/GUIDE SERVICES DURING THE 1981 CONVENTION.

10) ARTHUR ROEHRIG SHOULD DETERMINE THE DATE OF THE 1981 CONVENTION AND INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

TWO MAJOR CONCERNS VOICED WERE:

1) FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE NEEDED TO SET UP A FULL-TIME STAFF FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE AADB.

2) THE FUTURE AADB MEETINGS SHOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT AND ENJOYABLE. MISUNDERSTANDINGS, LENGTHY MEETINGS, AND CONFUSION NEED TO

BE ELIMINATED. THESE MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, BUT SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO HAVE TIME TO MEET AND DISCUSS THE AADB. IT WAS A SMALL STEP IN THE PROGRESS OF THE AADB. I HAVE A STRONGLY POSITIVE FEELING CONCERNING ITS GREAT FUTURE. WE CAN LOOK AT THE EARLY STRUGGLES OF THE NAD AND COMPARE THEM TO OUR OWN. THEY ARE NOW A POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL ORGANIZATION, AND WE CAN BE THE SAME.

IF YOU, MY DEAR READERS, WISH TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR VALUABLE IDEAS CONCERNING THE 1981 CONVENTION, PLEASE DO SO BY WRITING:

ARTHUR ROEHRIG
1981 AADB CONVENTION CHAIRPERSON
CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SERVICES
PROGRAM FOR THE HEARING AND
VISUALLY IMPAIRED
GALLAUDET COLLEGE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

THE SECOND HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE
ON DEAF-BLINDNESS

BY ELEANOR E. MACDONALD

THE SECOND HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE ON DEAF-BLINDNESS WAS HELD IN HANNOVER, WEST GERMANY, FROM JULY 21 TO 25, 1980. APPROXIMATELY 300 PERSONS, REPRESENTING 28 COUNTRIES, WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THIS INCLUDED A NUMBER OF AMERICANS AND CANADIANS, INCLUDING AADB MEMBERS, BOB AND MICHELLE SMITHDAS, KERRY AND SHAN WADMAN, ROD AND ELE MACDONALD, LOU BETTICA, AND DEAN WYRICK.

THE CONFERENCE WAS SPONSORED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND'S COMMITTEE ON SERVICES TO DEAF-BLIND PERSONS. BOB SMITHDAS, CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE, SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, WHILE KERRY WADMAN AND ROD MACDONALD SERVED AS CHAIRMEN OF WORKING SESSIONS.

MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE WILL NO DOUBT BE REPORTED IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS, SO WE WILL LEAVE MUCH OF THE "BUSINESS" SIDE OF THINGS FOR YOU TO READ ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO DEAF-BLIND PERSONS ARE THE 17 RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONFERENCE, SO WE WILL INCLUDE THESE HERE. EVERYONE AT THE CONFERENCE VOTED ON THE FIRST 16, WHILE ONLY DEAF-BLIND PERSONS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE ON "THE DECLARATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS." WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT ALL DEAF-BLIND PERSONS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THIS DECLARATION--THE VOTE WAS 16-0, WITH BOB (CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE) AND ROD (CHAIRMAN OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE) NOT TAKING PART IN THE VOTING.

THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN THE "STADTHALLE," ADJACENT TO THE STADTPARK HOTEL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF HANNOVER. AS IS THE CUSTOM IN EUROPE, BREAKFAST COMES FREE WITH YOUR ROOM AT THE HOTEL. THE STADTPARK OFFERED A FANTASTIC SELECTION OF COLDCUTS, CHEESES, FRUITS AND JUICES, NOT TO MENTION OTHER GOODIES SUCH AS AN INDIVIDUAL MINI-POT OF COFFEE OR TEA FOR EACH PERSON.

MANY OF US WERE ABLE TO TAKE SIDE-TRIPS TO OTHER PARTS OF GERMANY. KERRY AND SHAN, WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN PARTY, SPENT A WEEKEND IN BERLIN, WHILE ROD AND I SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN FRANKFURT. BOB AND SALLY MILLER, LONG-TIME FRIENDS OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS, NOW LIVING IN HAWAII, MANAGED TO SEE QUITE A BIT OF EUROPE,

FROM ITALY TO ENGLAND. AND, OF COURSE, WE HAD MANY EXCURSIONS INTO THE TOWN OF HANNOVER, WITH ITS MANY INTERESTING SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS.

WE WERE ALL A BIT SURPRISED TO FIND OUT FIRST-HAND JUST HOW MUCH THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR HAS DECLINED. IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, FOR INSTANCE, TO GET A GOOD MEAL FOR LESS THAN 15 MARKS, WHICH IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT \$9.00. OUR HOTEL ROOM, EVEN AT SPECIAL RATES, COST ALMOST \$80.00 A NIGHT!

WE ALL ENJOYED THE CONFERENCE VERY MUCH, ESPECIALLY MEETING DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT CONFERENCE, WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN SAUDI ARABIA IN 1983.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY
THE SECOND HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE
ON DEAF-BLINDNESS

RESOLVED--THAT THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND (WCWB) COMMITTEE ON SERVICES TO DEAF-BLIND PERSONS (CSDBP) ESTABLISH A NEWSLETTER DEVOTED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS AROUND THE WORLD.

RESOLVED--THAT THE WCWB-CSDBP INVESTIGATE WAYS OF INCREASING INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS OF DEAF-BLINDNESS AND THE NEEDS OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS, DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS IN 1981.

RESOLVED--THAT THE WCWB-CSDBP ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL METHOD OF COMMUNICATION FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS, FOR POSSIBLE USE AT THE THIRD HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE.

RESOLVED--THAT ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE WCWB TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN OFFERING WHATEVER ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE TO COUNTRIES IN THE PROCESS OF STARTING SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS.

RESOLVED--THAT ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE WCWB GIVE INCREASED ATTENTION TO SPEECH TRAINING FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS WHO HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF BENEFITTING FROM THIS TRAINING.

RESOLVED--THAT MORE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS OF AND FOR DEAF PERSONS IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS.

RESOLVED--THAT THE WCWB ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH SPECIALIZED REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS BEING GIVEN TO APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS.

RESOLVED--THAT ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL HOUSING PROJECTS FOR DEAF-BLIND ADULTS.

RESOLVED--THAT SPECIAL AIDS, APPLIANCES, AND SERVICES BE PROVIDED TO DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS, WITHOUT CHARGE OR AT AN AFFORDABLE COST, TO ASSIST THE DEAF-BLIND PERSON IN MAKING THE MOST OF HIS OR HER SKILLS IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE.

RESOLVED--THAT THE WCWB URGE ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENCOURAGE AGENCIES OPERATING SHELTERED WORKSHOPS TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO OFFER MORE SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO DEAF-BLIND PERSONS.

RESOLVED--THAT SCHOOLS PROVIDING TRAINING FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS GIVE MORE CONSIDERATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS THAT WOULD PERMIT THE DEAF-BLIND PERSON TO COMMUNICATE AND INTERACT WITH NON-HANDICAPPED PERSONS WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY LEARNED MANUAL COMMUNICATION METHODS.

RESOLVED--THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING PRE-CONFERENCE ORIENTATION FOR DEAF-BLIND CHAIRPERSONS AND SPEAKERS AT THE THIRD HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE BETTER PREPARED TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES EFFICIENTLY.

RESOLVED--THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVOTING A WORKING SESSION TO THE TRAINING AND NEEDS OF INTERPRETERS WORKING WITH DEAF-BLIND PERSONS AT THE THIRD HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE.

RESOLVED--THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF THE LESS ARTICULATE DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUAL IN PLANNING FOR THE THIRD HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE.

RESOLVED--THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVOTING A WORKING SESSION TO THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF SPOUSES OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS AT THE THIRD HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE.

RESOLVED--THAT THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE SECOND HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE ON DEAF-BLINDNESS EXTEND A SINCERE VOTE OF THANKS:

TO HERR FERDINAND ZEKEL, HERR DR. KARL-HEINZ BAASKE AND THE STAFF OF THE DEUTSCHES TAUBBLINDENWORK, OUR KIND HOSTS, WHOSE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP OF THIS CONFERENCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY ALL;

TO SHEIKH ABDULLAH AL-GHANIM OF SAUDI ARABIA,

AND TO THE MANY GERMAN ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, FOR THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS CONFERENCE; TO MR. ANDERS ARNOR AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, FOR A SPLENDID JOB WELL DONE;
AND TO ALL OF THE MANY PEOPLE, NAMELESS YET APPRECIATED, WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TOWARD MAKING OUR PARTICIPATION A PLEASANT, INFORMATIVE AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES
OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS

REFERRING TO THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS ADOPTED BY THE FIRST HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS ON 16, SEPTEMBER, 1977, IN NEW YORK CITY, USA, THIS CONFERENCE DECLARES ALONG WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF RIGHTS AS A WAY OF LIFE IS THE ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

IN VIEW OF THIS AND IN VIEW OF THE OFTEN EXPRESSED DESIRE BY DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE TO BE AS INDEPENDENT AS POSSIBLE THE DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I. DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEVELOPED SKILLS IN MOBILITY, PERSONAL MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING SHOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF UTILIZING THESE SKILLS TO MINIMIZE THE DEPENDENCY ON OTHERS.

ARTICLE 2. DEAF-BLIND PERSONS WHO HAVE DEVELOPED VOCATIONAL SKILLS IN MAINTAINING A POSITION IN COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT, SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, OR RATHER MEANINGFUL SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT TO ACHIEVE AS MUCH ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AS POSSIBLE.

ARTICLE 3. DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN ASSUMING THE APPROPRIATE FAMILY ROLE, SHARING IN THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF THE FAMILY, IN THE MAKING OF DECISIONS AND TO TAKE PART IN THE FAMILY'S SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. IF UNABLE TO BE AN ACTIVE FAMILY PARTICIPANT, TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEKING APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND COUNSELING.

ARTICLE 4. DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY LIFE, FOLLOWING THE DAILY NEWS, AND TAKE AS MUCH PART AS POSSIBLE IN FRATERNAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS, AND TO WORK WITHIN THESE ASSOCIATIONS TO PROMOTE THE BETTERMENT OF THE DEAF-BLIND.

ARTICLE 5. DEAF-BLIND PERSONS SHOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO STIMULATE INTEREST AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS, TEACHERS, INTERPRETERS, AND ALL THOSE WHO CAN BE HELPFUL TO THE DEAF-BLIND, PARTICULARLY IN PROVIDING HELP IN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE.

ARTICLE 6. DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED A MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN OVERCOMING THEIR DISABILITIES SHALL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SHOWING OTHER DEAF-BLIND PERSONS HOW THEY TOO MIGHT OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES.

ARTICLE 7. DEAF-BLIND PERSONS SHALL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF OFFERING THEIR ASSISTANCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMMES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

ARTICLE 8. DEAF-BLIND PERSONS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAKING THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THEM THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THEIR PERSONAL GROWTH.

ENCHANTED HILLS CAMP FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS

BY DELORES FOLLETTE, PRESIDENT
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DEAF-BLIND CLUB

AT BEAUTIFUL ENCHANTED HILLS CAMP EVERY AUGUST, A LARGE GROUP OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS AND VOLUNTEERS GET TOGETHER FOR ONE WHOLE WEEK OF ACTIVITIES AND LOTS OF FUN. THE CAMPERS ARE MOSTLY FROM CALIFORNIA, BUT WE WELCOME OUT-OF-STATE FRIENDS TOO. THIS YEAR WE HAD PEOPLE FROM UTAH, ARIZONA, WASHINGTON, AND MARYLAND, TO NAME A FEW.

ENCHANTED HILLS IS A LOVELY PLACE, AND YOU WILL FIND MANY DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, SUCH AS HORSES, PIGS, GOATS, AND EVEN DUCKS AND PEACOCKS THAT FEEL THEY OWN THE LAKE. THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDING HILLS, AND IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE DEER IN PARTS OF THE CAMP AREA. WE HAVE COMFORTABLE CABINS AND ALSO, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MARRIED COUPLES.

WE PLAN A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES AND VARIOUS TYPES OF EVENING PARTIES IN THE HOPE THAT THERE IS SOMETHING ENJOYABLE FOR EVERYONE. IN THE DAYTIME WE OFFER ARTS AND CRAFTS - WHERE THE CAMPERS ARE ASSISTED IN MAKING THINGS SUCH AS LEATHER ITEMS, CERAMICS, OR OTHER CRAFTS. ALSO OFFERED IS HORSE-BACK RIDING, BOATING, HIKING, SWIMMING, ROLLER SKATING, AND JUST SITTING ON THE LAWN CHATTING WITH BOTH NEW AND OLD FRIENDS.

SOME EVENING PARTIES WERE A BEER-BUST, AT WHICH WE PRETENDED THAT WE WERE IN AN OLD ENGLISH PUB - WE DRANK BEER AND ATE PEANUTS AND CHIPS; BETWEEN BEERS WE DANCED. ONE EVENING WE HAD AN ICE CREAM PARLOR AND COFFEE HOUSE WHICH FEATURED ALL TYPES OF ICE CREAM SUNDAES AND VARIOUS TYPES OF SPE-

CIAL COFFEES, SUCH AS ORANGE MIST, ALMOND, AND IRISH COFFEE - COMPLETE WITH BRANDY AND WHIPPED CREAM. THERE WAS A MEXICAN FESTIVAL AT WHICH WE

ATE OUR FILL OF GOOD MEXICAN FOOD; AND ALSO A LUAU NIGHT, WHICH IS A HAWAIIAN DINNER WITH HAWAIIAN DRINKS USUALLY MADE OF FRUIT JUICES AND RUM. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK WAS THE FRIDAY EVENING DINNER-DANCE. FOR THIS OCCASION, WE ALL DRESSED UP IN OUR FINERY AND MADE RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER AS THOUGH WE WERE GOING TO A FANCY RESTAURANT. VOLUNTEERS ACTED AS WINE STEWARDS, WAITERS AND WAITRESSES, AS WELL AS HOSTS AND HOSTESSES. WE WERE OFFERED MENUS IN BOTH PRINT AND BRAILLE, AND THE EVENING TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE OF YOU JOIN US NEXT YEAR, AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE DEAF-BLIND GROUP HERE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INVITE YOU TO THINK OF THIS ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR VACATION NEXT YEAR. WE WILL BE SURE TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE EARLY IN THE VOICE AND TELL YOU HOW TO GET APPLICATIONS TO JOIN US. THE 1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION WAS HOSTED AT ENCHANTED HILLS, AND THERE ARE THOSE OF YOU WHO WILL REMEMBER THE FUN WE ALL HAD TOGETHER, BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO DID NOT JOIN US MAY WANT TO CONSIDER IT FOR THE FUTURE, SO HOW ABOUT IT GANG? ARE YOU IN THE MOOD FOR A GOOD VACATION NEXT YEAR? WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO ENTERTAINING YOU.

ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD, EDITOR

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, 1981 IS AN ELECTION YEAR FOR THE AADB. OUR CONSTITUTION SETS FORTH THE RULES WE MUST FOLLOW IN CONDUCTING OUR ELECTION. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND YOU OF SOME OF THESE RULES, SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING LATER ON.

TO BEGIN WITH, A PERSON MUST HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE AADB FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OFFICE. ONLY DEAF-BLIND (ACTIVE) MEMBERS MAY RUN FOR THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT, FIRST AND SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, AND TREASURER. CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY MAY BE EITHER ACTIVE OR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, BUT MUST HAVE ADEQUATE SKILLS TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE. ALL CANDIDATES MUST ANNOUNCE THEIR CANDIDACY AT LEAST THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, AND "THE VOICE" CAN BE USED TO PUBLISH CAMPAIGN INFORMATION.

OUR CONSTITUTION STATES THAT "CAMPAIGNING IS ENCOURAGED." WITH THIS IN MIND, I WOULD LIKE TO URGE EACH OF YOU TO THINK AHEAD. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR OFFICE, YOU MAY WANT TO PREPARE FOR PUBLICATION IN "THE VOICE" A RESUME OR BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, OR A STATEMENT OF WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO HANDLE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED. YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO IF ELECTED.

AS EDITOR OF "THE VOICE," I WILL HAVE TO IMPOSE A FEW RULES, TOO. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT YOU LIMIT ANY CAMPAIGN MATERIAL YOU WISH PUBLISHED TO NO MORE THAN THREE TYPE-WRITTEN, DOUBLE-SPACED

PAGES FOR ANY SINGLE ISSUE OF "THE VOICE." THIS REQUEST IS MADE SO THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR COSTS DOWN AND MAKE ISSUES AS UNIFORM IN SIZE AS POSSIBLE. SECONDLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT IN SUBMITTING MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION, YOU MAKE SURE IT REACHES ME BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE ISSUE YOU WISH THE MATERIAL TO APPEAR IN. FOR EXAMPLE, ANY MATERIAL INTENDED FOR THE MARCH ISSUE SHOULD REACH ME NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15th. FINALLY, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT PERSONAL CRITICISMS OF OTHER MEMBERS OR CANDIDATES NOT BE INCLUDED IN MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION. I ASK THAT YOU ABIDE BY THIS SUGGESTION.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU WISH TO RUN FOR OFFICE. THE SOONER YOU ANNOUNCE YOUR CANDIDACY, THE MORE TIME MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO THINK THINGS OVER AND MAKE A GOOD CHOICE IN THE SELECTION OF OUR LEADERS.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS MADE BY THREE MEMBERS WISHING TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

MR. RODERICK ("ROD") MACDONALD, EDITOR OF "THE VOICE" AND PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE DEAF-BLIND PROGRAM AT OHLONE COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE AADB.

DR. ROBERT ("BOB") SMITHDAS, MEMBER OF THE AADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION AT THE HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER IN NEW YORK, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE OFFICE OF FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AADB.

MRS. ASLAUG HAVILAND, INCUMBENT SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AADB AND HOUSEWIFE FROM UTAH, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HER CANDIDACY FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT.

THE THREE CANDIDATES MENTIONED HAVE DISCUSSED THE ELECTION, AND EACH WISHES TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE OTHER TWO. WE SHARE MUTUAL IDEAS ON HOW OUR ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE GUIDED BY OFFICERS, AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR ORGANIZATION.

POSITION PAPER:

TWO-FOR-ONE AIRFARE ON ALL AIRLINES ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN PASSENGERS WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND

BY LINDA ANNALA, MEMBER - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POSITION: FOR YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE USED AIRLINES TO FLY FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER. SEVERAL TIMES, SOME PASSENGERS HAVE TO ARRANGE FOR A COMPANION TO FLY WITH THEM IN ORDER TO ATTEND TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF BOARDING A PLANE, IN-FLIGHT INTERACTIONS, AND ARRIVAL AT THEIR DESTINATIONS. THE REASON A PASSENGER WILL GO TO ALL THE EXTRA EXPENSE OF OBTAINING A COMPANION-GUIDE TO FLY WITH THEM IS SIMPLY BECAUSE THESE SPECIAL PASSENGERS ARE DEAF-BLIND.

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THESE PASSENGERS WERE DENIED THE PRIVILEGE OF FLYING ALONE JUST BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNICATION BARRIERS THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THE AIRLINE STAFF AND THE WOULD-BE PASSENGERS WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND. THESE PASSENGERS FIND THIS TO BE QUITE A HARDSHIP - BEING REQUIRED TO ALWAYS PAY AN EXTRA FARE FOR A COMPANION-GUIDE TO GO WITH THEM TO A DESTINATION.

PROPOSAL: THE PROPOSAL TO SOLVE THIS FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE PART OF THESE PASSENGERS, IS TO WAIVE THE FARE FOR THE COMPANION-GUIDE. SUCH

AS THE RESULT OF AN INNER-EAR INFECTION. HIS PARTICULAR HEARING PROBLEM PERMITS HIM TO HEAR SOUNDS CLEARLY UP TO ABOUT 440 CYCLES PER SECOND, BUT THE HUMAN VOICE TRANSMITS AT A HIGHER FREQUENCY THAN THIS, AND JOHN CANNOT HEAR SPEECH.

IN 1949, JOHN ENTERED THE NEW YORK INSTITUTE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WHERE HE WAS IN THE DEAF-BLIND DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM. HE GRADUATED FROM THE SCHOOL WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN 1956.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, JOHN ENROLLED AT THE COLLEGE OF ST. THOMAS IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA. A HELEN KELLER SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND PROVIDED HIM WITH AN INTERPRETER, AND HIS OTHER SCHOOL EXPENSES WERE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE MINNESOTA STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND. THIS AGENCY ALSO ARRANGED FOR THE TRANSCRIPTION OF HIS TEXTBOOKS INTO BRAILLE. JOHN GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE IN 1961, WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS, HAVING A MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY.

FROM SEPTEMBER, 1964, THROUGH APRIL, 1965, JOHN TOOK AN EXPERIMENTAL, NON-CREDIT COURSE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI IN OHIO. AT THE SAME TIME, FROM MAY, 1964, THROUGH OCTOBER, 1965, HE WORKED AS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY, THEN ACCEPTED A POSITION AS A COMPUTER PROGRAMMER AND SYSTEMS ANALYST WITH THE MEDCOMP RESEARCH CORPORATION, ALSO IN CINCINNATI.

IN MARCH OF 1970, JOHN MOVED TO WILLOUGHBY, OHIO, IN THE CLEVELAND AREA, WHERE HE WORKED AS A PROGRAMMER AND SYSTEMS ANALYST FOR THE WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

IN MAY OF 1972, JOHN WAS OFFERED A JOB BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AT PARKSIDE, WHERE HE BECAME A PROGRAMMER AND SYSTEMS ANALYST. HE IS ALSO WORKING ON HIS MASTER'S DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY IN CHICAGO.

JOHN IS AN AVID READER OF ALMOST ANYTHING HE CAN LAY HIS HANDS ON, ESPECIALLY SCIENCE FICTION STORIES. HE IS A FAST BRAILLE READER, BUT ALSO READS PRINT WELL WITH HIS OPTACON. USING THIS MACHINE, HE IS ABLE TO READ THE COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS THAT ARE SO IMPORTANT IN HIS WORK.

IN 1972, JOHN MARRIED HIS WIFE, HAZEL, AND ADOPTED HER SON BY A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE. HAZEL WORKED AS A TEACHER IN RACINE, WISCONSIN, WHERE THE COUPLE MADE THEIR HOME. THEY WERE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER UNTIL HAZEL'S DEATH IN 1977.

JOHN IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW DEAF-BLIND PERSONS TO HAVE A TRAINED GUIDE DOG, SUGAR. JOHN TRAINED SUGAR HIMSELF, SINCE GUIDE DOG SCHOOLS ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO TRAIN DOGS TO WORK WITH DEAF-BLIND PERSONS. "THE DOG IS VERY USEFUL TO ME ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND EVEN IN GETTING AROUND THE BUSY COMPUTER CENTER, WHERE TABLES AND CHAIRS HAVE A WAY OF TURNING UP IN UNEXPECTED PLACES. SHE IS ALSO VERY USEFUL IN FINDING PEOPLE, BECAUSE SHE HAS LEARNED TO LET ME KNOW WHEN THE OCCUPANT OF AN OFFICE IS NOT THERE. SOMETIMES SHE WILL EVEN TAKE ME RIGHT TO THE PERSON I AM LOOKING FOR, AS THOUGH I HAD TOLD HER WHO I WANTED. I DO NOT, HOWEVER, USE HER IN TRAFFIC, NOR CROSS ANY BUT THE QUIETEST STREETS WITH HER."

JOHN HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE AADB FOR SOME TIME NOW, AND IS A MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE HAS ATTENDED THE LAST FEW CONVENTIONS, AND ENJOYS THEM VERY MUCH.

RODERICK J. MACDONALD, EDITOR
466 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
FREMONT, CALIFORNIA 94538

LARGE-PRINT
MATTER
FOR THE BLIND

The Voice

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

American Association of the Deaf-Blind

Editor

RODERICK J. MACDONALD

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article	Pages
EDITORIAL	
BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD.....	1-3
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER	
BY DENNIS J. SCHREIBER.....	3-6
FISHING TRIP	
BY CHARLOTTE WHITACRE.....	6-7
PROFILE: MARTIN GREENBERG	
BY MARTIN GREENBERG.....	7-9
SUGGESTIONS & COMPLAINTS	
BY ASLAUG HAVILAND.....	9-11
ELECTION NEWS	
BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD.....	12-15
AADB CONSTITUTION.....	15-22
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION	
BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD.....	22-26

EDITORIAL

THIS IS THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE VOICE UNDER MY EDITORSHIP, AND IT WILL BE THE FIRST--I HOPE-- THAT WILL APPEAR IN BOTH BRAILLE AND LARGE-PRINT. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE CAME OUT IN LARGE-PRINT ONLY, MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF MANY READERS.

THE REASON FOR THE PRINT-ONLY PUBLICATION IN SEPTEMBER IS SIMPLE - WE HAD A LIST OF AADB MEMBERS, BUT WE DID NOT KNOW WHO WANTED PRINT AND WHO PREFERRED BRAILLE. OTHER NAMES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BUT WE STILL NEED TO KNOW WHO SHOULD RECEIVE BRAILLE. SO FAR, ONLY ABOUT 20 READERS HAVE WRITTEN TO SPECIFY THEIR PREFERENCE FOR BRAILLE, AND OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE MORE BRAILLE READERS OUT THERE. AS OF THIS WRITING, I HAVE A LIST OF ABOUT 85 NAMES OF BRAILLE READERS, THANKS LARGELY TO BOB SMITHDAS, WHO SEEMS TO KNOW EVERYBODY. I MUST ASK, HOWEVER, THAT ANYONE WISHING TO BE ADDED TO THE MAILING LIST SHOULD WRITE TO ME AND SPECIFY WHETHER THEY PREFER LARGE-PRINT OR BRAILLE.

ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT IT COSTS MORE MONEY THAN WE THOUGHT TO PRODUCE THE MAGAZINE. THE PRINT-ONLY FORMAT IN SEPTEMBER COST ABOUT \$275 FOR 300 COPIES. THAT AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 92¢ PER COPY. TO HAVE PUT THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE IN BRAILLE, ASSUMING A PRINTING OF 200 COPIES, WOULD HAVE COST \$445, OR ABOUT \$2.23 PER COPY. OUCH!

WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO PRODUCE THE VOICE ON A QUARTERLY BASIS IN BOTH PRINT AND BRAILLE, WE WILL NEED ABOUT \$3,000 TO DO IT. I AM PRESENTLY WORKING ON SOME POSSI-

BILITIES, AND I HAVE ASKED OUR BOARD FOR HELP. IT MAY BE, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL HAVE TO DEPEND, AT LEAST IN PART, ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS. IF ANY OF YOU WISH TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE VOICE, IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED. ANY SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE AADB TREASURER, MICHELLE SMITHDAS, C/O HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER, 111 MIDDLE NECK ROAD, SANDS POINT, NEW YORK 11050. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND, AND A LETTER SPECIFYING THAT THE MONEY IS TO BE USED FOR THE VOICE SHOULD ACCOMPANY YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

I HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF VERY NICE COMMENTS FROM READERS ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE. ONE THING THAT MANY READERS SEEMED TO LIKE WAS THE ABSENCE OF NEGATIVE CRITICISM. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT PAST ISSUES OF THE VOICE CONTAINED MATERIAL THAT, IN EFFECT, CARRIED ARGUMENTS BACK AND FORTH. IT HAS BECOME OUR EDITORIAL POLICY TO AVOID THIS TYPE OF MATERIAL, AND TO CONCENTRATE ON ITEMS THAT WILL INTEREST READERS. AS EDITOR, I THEREFORE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SELECT MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION WHICH UPHOLDS THIS POLICY. ALSO, MATERIAL SELECTED MAY BE REVISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFICATION. IN THAT EVENT, I WILL STRIVE TO MAINTAIN THE WRITER'S POINT OF VIEW.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY LETTERS INDICATING THAT THE LARGE-PRINT ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER DID NOT MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL, I HAVE HEARD INDIRECTLY THAT SOME PEOPLE DID NOT LIKE THE SIZE, DENSITY, OR SPACING OF THE PRINT. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WE CAN NEVER IMPROVE UNLESS YOU TELL US WHAT NEEDS IMPROVING. IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU DO NOT LIKE, WANT CHANGED OR WANT INCLUDED, PLEASE WRITE AND LET US KNOW! YOU CAN WRITE TO ME IN EITHER PRINT OR BRAILLE, AND ANY

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
THIS IS YOUR MAGAZINE, SO YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR
PART. IDEAS, PLEASE!

IN THIS ISSUE WE ARE PRINTING THE AADB CONSTITUTION. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT FEW MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED A COPY, AND THIS IS A GOOD WAY TO LET EVERYONE KNOW - ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO PREFER BRAILLE. I AM ALSO INCLUDING EIGHTEEN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. THESE WERE AN ATTEMPT ON MY PART TO CLARIFY A FEW THINGS IN THE CONSTITUTION. THEY WILL BE VOTED UPON AS PART OF OUR ELECTION, SO YOU WILL WANT TO THINK ABOUT THEM AND DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WISH TO SUPPORT THE CHANGES.

MY VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND FUN-FILLED 1981. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE AT OUR CONVENTION IN JUNE!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY DENNIS J. SCHREIBER, PRESIDENT

SINCE THE COMPLETION OF OUR CONVENTION AT PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND LAST JUNE, MANY IMPORTANT THINGS HAVE HAPPENED THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO AADB MEMBERS.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO BILL SCHWEIHS, AADB SECRETARY, FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN SECURING TAX-EXEMPT STATUS FOR OUR ORGANIZATION FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE. AS A RESULT OF THIS EFFORT, THE AADB IS NOW REGISTERED AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. THIS MEANS THAT ALL CONTRIBUTIONS GIVEN TO THE AADB ARE TAX-EXEMPT AND MAY BE DEDUCTED ON THE CONTRIBUTOR'S INCOME

TAX RETURN.

THE U.S. CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD HAS RELEASED NEW REGULATIONS WHICH PERMIT STATUS FARES TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS. I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH AMERICAN AIRLINES IN AN EFFORT TO SECURE THE TWO-FOR-ONE AIRFARE FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING THIS ARRANGEMENT ACCEPTED BY THE AIRLINES, IT WILL MEAN THAT ANY DEAF-BLIND PERSON ACCOMPANIED BY A SIGHTED-HEARING COMPANION CAN HAVE BOTH PERSONS FLY FOR THE PRICE OF ONE TICKET. AS I TOLD THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD LAST OCTOBER, IT IS MY FEELING THAT WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKTHROUGH IN OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE THE TWO-FOR-ONE AIRFARE. I CANNOT PROMISE ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT I WILL TRY. AS YOU WILL RECALL, I WAS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK THE TWO-FOR-ONE AIRFARE DURING OUR CONVENTION LAST JUNE. I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.

I HAVE MET WITH ART ROEHRIG, CHAIRPERSON OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR OUR 1981 CONVENTION. ART INFORMS ME THAT THE DATES FOR OUR CONVENTION AT GALLAUDET COLLEGE, WASHINGTON, D.C., WILL BE JUNE 20-27, 1981. IT IS ENCOURAGING TO REPORT THAT PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO SEND DELEGATIONS FROM COLORADO, ILLINOIS, IOWA, LOUISIANA, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, NEW JERSEY, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA AND TEXAS.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF COLORADO BEING THE SITE FOR OUR 1982 CONVENTION. CHARLENE AND ART RIOS, AND NANCY MENGEL ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITIES AND ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF BRINGING THE AADB CONVENTION TO THEIR HOME STATE IN 1982.

OUR MEMBERSHIP HOVERS NEAR THE 200 MARK. CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHELLE SMITHDAS, OUR TREASURER, WHO HAS BEEN KEEPING TRACK OF OUR MEMBERSHIPS AND CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR. SHE HAS BEEN WORKING VERY HARD IN HER SPARE TIME, AND DESERVES OUR APPRECIATION.

ALL MEMBERS WILL JOIN WITH ME IN EXTENDING OUR CONDOLENCES AND SHARING IN THE SORROW OF EDITH SIMONS ON THE LOSS OF HER SON IN SEPTEMBER, AND DICK AND JOAN BELL ON THE PASSING OF JOAN'S MOTHER.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO DENNIS DILDY, WHO WAS RECENTLY AWARDED A MAJOR GRANT TO PROVIDE VOCATIONAL AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IN TEXAS. CONGRATULATIONS, ALSO, TO DICK BELL, WHO WAS HIRED AS A CONSULTANT UNDER THIS GRANT.

HELEN GULDIN, A MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAS BEGUN WORK ON OUR NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. HELEN, ALONG WITH HARRY ANDERSON OF FLORIDA AND PATTI MOORE OF TEXAS, WILL BE WORKING WITH REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZE STATE CHAPTERS AND DELEGATIONS TO OUR 1981 CONVENTION, WHICH SHOULD BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER.

ASLAUG HAVILAND AND EDITH SIMONS HAVE BOTH SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A NEW NAME FOR OUR MAGAZINE. MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT THE OLD NAME BRINGS TO MIND BAD MEMORIES. ONE SUGGESTION IS TO RETAIN THE OLD NAME, "THE VOICE," BUT TO CHANGE IT TO, "THE NEW VOICE." IF WE RECEIVE THREE MORE SUGGESTIONS, WE WILL PUT IT TO A VOTE OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP, WHICH SHOULD BE FUN FOR ALL. SO LET'S HAVE YOUR IDEAS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROD MACDONALD FOR HIS VERY

FINE EDITORSHIP OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE VOICE TO APPEAR IN SOME TIME. I ALSO FEEL THAT THE CANDIDACY OF ROD, BOB SMITHDAS AND ASLAUG HAVILAND WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER MEMBERS TO RUN FOR OFFICE NEXT YEAR. AS OUR ORGANIZATION GROWS, THERE WILL BE MANY MORE ABLE DEAF-BLIND PERSONS SEEKING THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP. COMPETITION FOR OFFICE IS PART OF THE AMERICAN WAY, AND I FEEL THIS IS GOOD FOR OUR ORGANIZATION.

FISHING TRIP

BY CHARLOTTE WHITACRE

ON A SUNNY AUTUMN DAY IN NOVEMBER, THE MEMBERS OF THE LIONS CLUB OF OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA PREPARED A FISHING TRIP FOR BLIND STUDENTS AND DEAF-BLIND TRAINEES. THE STAFF OF THE LIONS BLIND CENTER WENT ALONG TO HELP.

EIGHT DEAF-BLIND TRAINEES WERE IN A FISHING MOOD: PATSY WALTERS, JO ANN PETERSEN, ALICE STRATTON, LEONARD BERNARDO, PHILLIP WILLIAMS, CHERYL MC MAINS, JEAN CHASSON, AND MEL EATMON. THEY WERE ALL READY AT 7:30 IN THE MORNING, WEARING WARM CLOTHING. PATSY WALTERS BOUGHT HERSELF A FOLDING FISHING ROD AND TACKLE BOX IN ANTICIPATION OF THE EVENT.

WE ALL MET AT THE LIONS BLIND CENTER, AND LEFT FOR THE LAKE IN THE CENTER'S VANS AND PRIVATE CARS. IT TOOK ABOUT AN HOUR TO ARRIVE AT BETHEL ISLAND, LOCATED NEAR ANTIOCH. THE LAKE WAS ONCE FARMLAND; FLOODS CAUSED THE CHANGE, AND NOW THE WATER IS 18 FEET DEEP. UPON ARRIVING, THERE ON A CHANNEL, WERE EIGHT HOUSEBOATS WAITING FOR US.

AN OPERATION TO CORRECT THE CONDITION. AFTER THREE MONTHS OF RECUPERATION, I WAS TOLD THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS.

I ENROLLED AT THE DENVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN COLORADO, WHERE I MAJORED IN ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL EDUCATION TOWARDS MY BACHELORS DEGREE, WHICH I RECEIVED IN 1977 FROM LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK. AFTER GRADUATION, I WORKED AT PETRIE STORES CORPORATION AS A BANK RECONCILIATION CLERK FOR A YEAR AND A HALF, WHEN I DECIDED TO CONTINUE SCHOOL AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY/NORTHRIDGE FOR GRADUATE STUDY.

WHILE ATTENDING CSUN, I HAPPENED TO BUMP INTO ROD MACDONALD AT THE DEAF AND BLIND CONFERENCE ONE SMOGGY EVENING IN LOS ANGELES. ROD EXPLAINED TO ME ABOUT COMPUTER PROGRAMMING STUDIES IN THE BAY AREA, AND I DECIDED TO LEAVE CSUN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA, WHERE HE WORKED. ROD ASKED ME TO SEE AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST TO FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT I AM LEGALLY BLIND. I WAS TOLD BY AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST ONE AFTERNOON THAT I AM LEGALLY BLIND AS A RESULT OF USHER'S SYNDROME. I WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR THAT, AND WAS NOT READY TO ACCEPT IT.

I LATER ENROLLED IN THE DEAF-BLIND COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM IN FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, FOR ONE YEAR BEGINNING IN APRIL, 1979. WHILE STUDYING AT OHLONE, I HAD THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MANY INTERESTING THINGS THROUGHOUT MOBILITY TRAINING, INCLUDING A NIGHT VISUAL AID CALLED A WIDE ANGLE MOBILITY LIGHT. IT HAPPENED TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL IN DARK SPOTS AND AT NIGHT. I WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO BUY ONE IN THE PALO ALTO AREA. I ALSO LEARNED THINGS ABOUT PEOPLE HAVING USHER'S SYNDROME FROM THE LIONS CLUB IN OAKLAND AND AT THE SAN FRANCISCO LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND. I WAS THE FIRST STUDENT TO

GRADUATE FROM THE OHLONE DEAF-BLIND PROGRAM.

WHILE HUNTING FOR EMPLOYMENT IN EITHER THE SAN FRANCISCO OR NEW YORK AREAS, I ATTENDED MY FIRST CONVENTION OF THE AADB AT THE PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND IN BOSTON THIS PAST JUNE. I VERY MUCH ENJOYED MEETING WITH THE MANY NEW FACES FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. WE ALL SHARED OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE EXPERIENCES WITH USHER'S SYNDROME. I LEARNED SO MANY LESSONS FROM THE MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS PRESENTED AT THE CONVENTION.

WHILE BACK IN NEW YORK CITY LAST SUMMER, I MET WITH PEOPLE HAVING USHER'S SYNDROME IN THE NEW YORK AREA. SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN GOING TO THE MEETINGS, SOCIALS, AND A SUNDAY LUNCHEON, AND I AM RECEIVING THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - USHER'S SYNDROME AWARENESS. I AM INVOLVED IN BOTH USHER'S SYNDROME AWARENESS AND THE LIONS CLUB.

ONE NOVEMBER WEEKEND, WHILE PREPARING FOR AN USHER'S SYNDROME WORKSHOP IN NEW YORK, I UNEXPECTEDLY FOUND A JOB THROUGH THE UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AT THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION IN SAN FRANCISCO. I STARTED WORKING THERE AS AN ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN, AND ENDED UP MISSING THE WORKSHOP. BUT I AM ENJOYING MY NEW JOB AT THE V.A., AND NOW IT IS JUST THE BEGINNING...

SUGGESTIONS & COMPLAINTS

BY ASLAUG HAVILAND, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

AFTER OUR LAST CONVENTION, AT PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, I REALIZED THAT THE DEAF-BLIND MEMBERS OF THE AADB, BOTH THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO ATTEND A

CONVENTION AND THOSE WHO MUST SIT AT HOME, SHOULD BE GIVEN MUCH MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. WITH THIS IN MIND, I HAVE RECOMMENDED TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT, DURING THE CONVENTION WEEK, WE SHOULD HAVE ONE FULL MORNING SESSION DEVOTED TO SUGGESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS FROM THE FLOOR. EACH PERSON WISHING TO MAKE A SUGGESTION OR EXPRESS A CONCERN WOULD SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE COORDINATOR OF THE SESSION. BY SUBMITTING NAMES IN ADVANCE, AND POSSIBLY THE TOPIC THE PERSON WISHES TO BRING UP, THE COORDINATOR WOULD HAVE A LIST OF EVERYONE WHO WISHED TO BE HEARD, AND NO ONE WOULD FEEL LEFT OUT.

BUT MANY OF OUR MEMBERS ARE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND CONVENTIONS. THESE DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE CAN BE HEARD TOO! ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS WRITE A LETTER TO ONE OF THE OFFICERS OR A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION OR WISH TO MAKE A COMPLAINT. YES, CRITICISM, TOO, CAN BE HELPFUL - IF IT IS CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM. I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF YOU WHO DO HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, BECAUSE LETTERS ARE GOING AROUND AMONG YOU, ASKING EACH OTHER, "WHY DOESN'T THE AADB DO THIS OR THAT?". THIS WILL NOT HELP US MUCH - IN FACT, IT WILL ONLY CAUSE MORE DISSATISFACTION. MUCH BETTER, I THINK, TO SIT RIGHT DOWN AND WRITE A LETTER TO THE LEADERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT, BECAUSE WE DO NEED TO KNOW "WHERE THE SHOE HURTS THE MOST."

THE COMPLAINT I HAVE HEARD MOST OFTEN IS THAT THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS AND GUIDES DURING THE CONVENTION WEEK. I AGREE THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO CORRECT THIS. I FEEL THAT THE HOST COMMITTEE, IN THE CITY IN WHICH THE CONVENTION IS HELD, SHOULD PROVIDE MOST OF THE

VOLUNTEERS, BECAUSE NOT ALL DEAF-BLIND PERSONS ATTENDING CONVENTIONS CAN BRING THEIR OWN INTERPRETER-GUIDES. HOWEVER, THE OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM, AND WE ARE TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO SOLVE IT.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO KEEP ASKING, "WHAT IS THE AADB DOING FOR US DEAF-BLIND?", I CAN ONLY REPLY THAT "ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN ONE DAY," OR, TO USE ANOTHER EXPRESSION, A NEW HOUSE MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE WE CAN MOVE INTO IT. IN 1979, AT OUR CONVENTION IN TEXAS, WE BEGAN ON THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW AND BETTER ORGANIZATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND. WE HAD TO START FROM SCRATCH, FOR THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF THE OLD ORGANIZATION - NOT SO MUCH AS A PENNY IN THE TREASURY, AND MOST OF THE MEMBERS HAD LEFT THE OLD ORGANIZATION. IN THE YEAR SINCE OUR NEW ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED, WE HAVE BECOME A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION WITH TAX-EXEMPT STATUS, WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO RAISE FUNDS AND NOT HAVE TO PAY TAXES ON THESE FUNDS. WHAT WE NEED NOW, OF COURSE, IS MONEY. BUT EVEN MORE THAN MONEY, WE NEED YOU AND YOUR COOPERATION IN ORDER TO BECOME A STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION. THE MORE MEMBERS WE HAVE, THE STRONGER WE WILL BE. SO, IF ANYTHING IS ON YOUR MIND; IF YOU FEEL WE CAN DO THINGS BETTER - PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO SPEAK OUT. LET US KNOW ABOUT IT, EITHER BY LETTER OR DURING THE CONVENTION.

WHEN JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID IN HIS SPEECH, "ASK NOT, WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU; ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY." SO IT IS THAT IF WE WANT OUR ORGANIZATION TO DO SOMETHING FOR US, WE SHOULD ALSO THINK, "WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY ORGANIZATION?".



Election News... BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD

IN THE SEPTEMBER "VOICE," THREE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED THEIR CANDIDACY FOR OFFICE IN THE AADB'S UPCOMING ELECTION, SCHEDULED FOR THE SPRING OF 1981. SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR CANDIDACY IN THIS ISSUE. IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO REMIND MEMBERS OF SOME OF THE RULES THAT APPLY TO ELECTIONS.

TO RUN FOR OFFICE, A PERSON MUST HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE AADB FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. EACH PERSON MUST ANNOUNCE HIS OR HER CANDIDACY AT LEAST THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, AND MUST ALSO BE NOMINATED BY ANOTHER MEMBER. THE VOICE IS TO BE USED FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

TO VOTE, A PERSON MUST HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE AADB FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, MUST REQUEST THAT A BALLOT BE SENT TO THEM, AND MUST ATTEND THE CONVENTION. BALLOTS ARE TO BE SENT TO THOSE REQUESTING THEM 30 DAYS BEFORE THE CONVENTION, AND NEW OFFICERS WILL ASSUME THEIR DUTIES AT THE CONVENTION. ANYONE WISHING TO VOTE SHOULD WRITE TO THE AADB SECRETARY, BILL SCHWEIHS, 7308 WEST MADISON STREET, FOREST PARK, ILLINOIS 60130, REQUESTING A BALLOT. BALLOTS WILL BE SENT IN MAY, AND YOU SHOULD BE SURE TO REQUEST YOUR BALLOT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, CERTAINLY BY MAY 1st.

THE ELECTION WILL INCLUDE FIVE OFFICES: PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER. THE SECRETARY MAY BE A DEAF-BLIND PERSON OR NON-DEAF-BLIND, BUT MUST HAVE ADEQUATE SKILLS TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE. ALL OTHER OFFICERS MUST BE DEAF-BLIND PERSONS. TEN BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE ELECTED.

AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, EACH PERSON WISHING TO BE ELECTED TO OFFICE OR TO A BOARD POSITION MUST ANNOUNCE HIS OR HER CANDIDACY AND BE NOMINATED BY ANOTHER MEMBER. IN ORDER TO HAVE THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE VOICE OUT ON TIME, I MUST REQUEST THAT ALL MATERIAL TO APPEAR IN THAT ISSUE--INCLUDING ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS--REACH ME NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 1981.

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MS. NANCY MENGEL, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR FOR THE DENVER COMMISSION ON THE DISABLED, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HER CANDIDACY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MS. MENGEL IS EDITOR OF THE COMMISSION'S NEWSLETTER, "FOR YOUR INFORMATION," AND IS COMMUNITY LIAISON FOR THE DENVER 911-TYPE EMERGENCY SERVICE FOR HEARING AND SPEECH-IMPAIRED PERSONS WHO USE TTY'S, TDD'S, OR SIMILAR DEVICES. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MAIL, INC. - AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR SEVERELY DISABLED PERSONS IN THE DENVER AREA. SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND OF COLORADO, TELECOMMUNICATIONS OUTREACH OF COLORADO, AND THE ASSOCIABLES SOCIAL GROUP FOR DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE IN DENVER.

IN ANNOUNCING HER CANDIDACY, NANCY WRITES THAT, "MY WORK AT THE COMMISSION ON THE DISABLED INVOLVES DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT LIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH ALL KINDS OF DISABILITIES. I WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY, AS A MEMBER OF THE AADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TO USE MY EXPERIENCE TO HELP IMPROVE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE."

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MR. HENRY BUZZARD, OF WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY TO BECOME A

MEMBER OF THE AADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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MR. MARTIN GREENBERG, AN ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN WITH THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION IN SAN FRANCISCO, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER OF THE AADB.

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MS. MICHELLE SMITHDAS, AADB TREASURER AND A TEACHER'S AIDE AT THE HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HER CANDIDACY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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MR. STEPHEN EHRLICH, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE AADB AND A STUDENT AT OHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, WISHES TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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RODERICK MACDONALD WISHES TO NOMINATE THE FOLLOWING PERSONS FOR OFFICE AND/OR BOARD POSITIONS: FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: ROBERT SMITHDAS; SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: ASLAUG HAVILAND; TREASURER: MARTIN GREENBERG; BOARD MEMBERS: HENRY BUZZARD, MICHELLE SMITHDAS, KATHLEEN SPEAR, ISAAC OBIE, AND KERRY WADMAN.

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MICHELLE SMITHDAS WISHES TO NOMINATE THE FOLLOWING PERSONS FOR OFFICE AND/OR BOARD POSITIONS: PRESIDENT: RODERICK MACDONALD; BOARD MEMBERS: LINDA ANNALA, AUSTIN BERKEY, ELIZABETH DOWDY, STEPHEN EHRLICH, NANCY MENGEL, ARTHUR ROEHRIG, AND ELAINE VAN DUSER. MS. SMITHDAS ALSO WISHES TO SECOND THE NOMINATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: ROBERT SMITHDAS;

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: ASLAUG HAVILAND; TREASURER: MARTIN GREENBERG.

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ROBERT SMITHDAS WISHES TO SECOND THE NOMINATION OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: PRESIDENT: RODERICK MACDONALD; SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: ASLAUG HAVILAND; TREASURER: MARTIN GREENBERG; BOARD MEMBERS: LINDA ANNALA, AUSTIN BERKEY, ELIZABETH DOWDY, STEPHEN EHRLICH, NANCY MENGEL, ARTHUR ROEHRIG, MICHELLE SMITHDAS, AND ELAINE VAN DUSER.

AADB Constitution

ADOPTED AUGUST 25, 1978

PREAMBLE

WE, THE DEAF-BLIND OF NORTH AMERICA, IN ORDER TO HAVE OUR RIGHTFUL SHARE OF ALL BENEFITS OF OUR NATIONS, ADVANCE OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE, SECURE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES, RAISE OUR MORALE AND COMPETENCE, HEREBY ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1 -- NAME

SECTION 1. THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE CALLED THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND.

SECTION 2. THE INITIALS AADB, HEREAFTER, SHALL MEAN THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND.

ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE

SECTION 1. THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE A NONPROFIT, BENEFICIAL SOCIETY OF DEAF-BLIND ADULTS AND OTHER CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCING THE ECONOMIC,

EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL WELFARE, AND MORALE OF
DEAF-BLIND PERSONS.

ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AADB SHALL BE OF THREE TYPES: (A) ACTIVE, (B) ASSOCIATE, (C) HONORARY.

SECTION 2. ANY INDIVIDUAL WORKING TO FURTHER THE PURPOSE OF THE AADB IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 3. ACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL BE DEAF-BLIND PERSONS WHO WILL SUPPORT THE PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF THE AADB; ACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL PAY APPROPRIATE DUES AND MAY PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

SECTION 4. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ARE ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO PAY APPROPRIATE DUES AND ADHERE TO THE PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF THE AADB.

SECTION 5. HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS SHALL BE CONFERRED UPON PERSONS WHO HAVE DONE OUTSTANDING WORK ON BEHALF OF THE AADB.

THESE MEMBERSHIPS SHALL BE CONFERRED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OR NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SECTION 6. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP:

(A) ALL MEMBERS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND ALL CONVENTIONS AND ALL MEETINGS OF THE AADB;

(B) ALL MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION SHALL BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS; (C) ALL MEMBERS OF THE AADB SHALL RECEIVE THE VOICE, THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION; (D) ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS

SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE; (E) ALL MEMBERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZATION; (F) ASSOCIATE AND HONORARY MEMBERS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE AADB, EXCEPT FOR VOTING PRIVILEGES.

ARTICLE IV -- ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. (A) THE OFFICERS OF THE AADB SHALL BE

A PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER; (B) THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT AND THE TREASURER MUST BE DEAF-BLIND; (C) THE SECRETARY OF AADB MUST HAVE ADEQUATE SKILLS, BUT MAY BE AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER.

SECTION 2. (A) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OFFICE IN THE AADB, A PERSON SHALL BE A MEMBER FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS; (B) ELECTIONS SHALL TAKE PLACE BY A SECRET BALLOT. VOTING SHALL BE BY MAIL OR AT THE CONVENTION. COUNTING OF BALLOTS SHALL BE DONE BY THREE PEOPLE: AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER, AN ACTIVE MEMBER NOT INVOLVED IN THE ELECTION, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN OUTSIDE AGENCY. BALLOTS FOR VOTING BY MAIL SHALL BE SENT ONLY UPON REQUEST; (C) ALL CANDIDATES SHALL DECLARE THEIR CANDIDACY AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTION. THE MEMBERSHIP LIST OF AADB SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL CANDIDATES, UPON REQUEST. CAMPAIGNING IS ENCOURAGED. CANDIDATES SHALL BE NOMINATED BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN THEMSELVES. ALL NOMINATIONS SHALL BE IN WRITTEN FORM. BALLOTS SHALL BE MAILED THIRTY DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE CONVENTION OR ANNUAL MEETING. NO MEMBER SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE WHO HAS NOT BEEN A MEMBER OF THE AADB FOR THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION; (D) THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE VOICE PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, SHALL BE SET ASIDE FOR THE USE OF THE CANDIDATES TO ANNOUNCE THEIR CANDIDACY. EACH CANDIDATE SHALL SUBMIT A RESUME FOR PUBLICATION; (E) IT SHALL REQUIRE A MAJORITY VOTE OF THOSE VOTING BY MAIL, AND PRESENT AT THE MEETING OR CONVENTION, TO ELECT THE OFFICERS; (F) OFFICERS SHALL BE INSTALLED, AFTER THE BALLOTS ARE COUNTED, AT THE CONVENTION AND SERVE FOR TWO YEARS. ELECTED OFFICERS

SHALL ASSUME OFFICE IMMEDIATELY UPON ELECTION. IF A CONVENTION DOES NOT TAKE PLACE, THE ELECTION SHALL BE HELD BY MAIL; (G) NO OFFICER SHALL SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS IN THE SAME OFFICE; (H) RESULTS OF THE ELECTION SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE.

ARTICLE V -- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. (A) THE PRESIDENT SHALL PRESIDE AT ALL MEETINGS; (B) THE PRESIDENT SHALL SEE THAT THE POLICIES OF THE AADB AND THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD ARE CARRIED OUT; (C) THE PRESIDENT SHALL REPRESENT THE ORGANIZATION, OR DELEGATE SUCH AUTHORITY, WHEN AND WHEREVER IT IS TO BE REPRESENTED; (D) THE PRESIDENT SHALL SIGN ALL LEGAL PAPERS, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD; (E) THE PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD; (F) THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD, SHALL HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES AND SHALL BE A DEFACTO MEMBER OF ALL COMMITTEES, TO INSURE COMMUNICATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

SECTION 2. (A) THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT SHALL SERVE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT; (B) SHALL SUCCEED THE PRESIDENT IF THAT OFFICE BECOMES VACANT; (C) SHALL ASSIST THE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 3. (A) THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT SHALL SERVE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT; (B) SHALL SUCCEED THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT IF THAT OFFICE BECOMES VACANT; (C) SHALL ASSIST THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT.

SECTION 4. (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL RECORD AND KEEP ALL MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND AT THE CONVENTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS

OF THE BOARD; (B) SHALL HANDLE PROMPTLY ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATERIALS PERTAINING TO THAT OFFICE; (C) SHALL KEEP A COPY OF THIS CONSTITUTION AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS MADE BY THE ORGANIZATION AND THE BOARD; (D) SHALL BE CUSTODIAN OF ALL ORGANIZATION PAPERS; (E) SHALL KEEP ROLES OF MEMBERSHIP AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING THEM OUT, UPON REQUEST, AT ELECTION TIME.

SECTION 5. (A) THE TREASURER SHALL PREPARE THE SEMI-ANNUAL AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; (B) SHALL COLLECT ALL OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS AND DUES; (C) SHALL REPORT ALL BILLS AND MAKE PAYMENT FOLLOWING AUTHORIZATION BY THE BOARD; (D) SHALL HANDLE DUES AND DRAFT MEMBERSHIP RECEIPTS; (E) SHALL KEEP AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF MONIES RECEIVED AND SPENT BY THE ORGANIZATION; (F) SHALL SEE THAT ALL MONIES RECEIVED ARE DEPOSITED IN A BANK DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD; (G) CHECKS SHALL BE SIGNED BY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE OFFICERS: PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER; (H) SHALL REPORT NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF DUES PAYING MEMBERS TO THE SECRETARY.

ARTICLE VI -- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. (A) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE AADB; (B) THE BOARD SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE FIVE OFFICERS OF THE AADB AND TEN OTHER BOARD MEMBERS, FIVE OF WHOM MUST BE DEAF-BLIND; (C) ALL OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE ELECTED FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS; (D) TO QUALIFY AS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE BOARD, THE CANDIDATE MUST HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE AADB FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS.

SECTION 2. THE DUTIES OF THE BOARD SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: (A) TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PRO-

GRAMS AND POLICIES; (B) TO APPROVE THE DRAFTING OF ALL CONTRACTS, LEGAL PAPERS, AND DOCUMENTS; (C) TO PROVIDE AND SUBMIT TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS APPROVAL, WAYS AND MEANS FOR FINANCING THE AADB; (D) DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF DUES; (E) CALL SPECIAL MEETINGS; (F) DESIGNATE BANK WHEREIN MONEY SHALL BE DEPOSITED; (G) MAKE RULES AND REGULATIONS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION; (H) TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE COMMITTEE REPORTS.

ARTICLE VII -- MEETINGS

SECTION 1. AN ANNUAL MEETING OR ANNUAL CONVENTION SHALL BE CALLED BY THE PRESIDENT STATING DATE AND LOCATION, UPON APPROVAL OF THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ALL MEMBERS SHALL BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CONVENTION OR OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE AADB, OR ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL MEET ANNUALLY PRIOR TO THE CONVENTION, IF ONE IS HELD. THE BOARD SHALL MEET ANNUALLY IF THERE IS NOT A CONVENTION.

SECTION 2. THE PRESIDENT OR THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD, WHEN NECESSARY. THE MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF THE RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS.

ARTICLE VIII -- QUORUM

SECTION 1. A QUORUM OF THE BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FIVE OF WHOM MUST BE DEAF-BLIND.

ARTICLE IX -- DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. NO OFFICER OR MEMBER SHALL HAVE ANY REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THIS ORGANIZATION, NOR WILL THEY HAVE ANY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEBTS OF THE

AADB IN THE EVENT OF ITS TERMINATION.

SECTION 2. FAILURE TO HAVE THREE SUCCESSIVE ANNUAL MEETINGS, THE CURRENT OFFICERS SHALL SETTLE THE OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE AADB AND DONATE ANY REMAINING MONIES OR PROPERTY TO A LEGALLY QUALIFIED CHARITY.

ARTICLE X -- AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OR CONVENTION BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE VOTES OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING. AMENDMENTS OR CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE RECOMMENDED BY ANY MEMBER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OR CONVENTION.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OR CONVENTION. THE AMENDMENTS WILL BE PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THE ELECTION BALLOTS TO ANYONE REQUESTING THEM.

ARTICLE XI -- PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. "ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, REVISED," SHALL BE THE BASIS OF SETTLING ALL QUESTIONS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR IN THIS CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE XII -- PUBLICATION

SECTION 1. THERE SHALL BE A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AADB. IT SHALL BE CALLED THE VOICE. IT SHALL CARRY MATERIAL PERTINENT TO THE LIVES OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS EVERYWHERE. THE EDITOR SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, WITH APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 2. (A) THERE SHALL BE A STANDING COMMITTEE, CALLED THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF FIVE MEMBERS, THREE OF WHOM MUST BE DEAF-BLIND, TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLISHING OF THE VOICE; (B) IT WILL BE A VEHICLE

FOR PRESENTING THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION, CAMPAIGNING, PRESENTING REPORTS, MAKING ANNOUNCEMENTS TO PROVIDE NEWS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, ETC., AND ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT DEAF-BLIND PERSONS;
(C) IT WILL NOT REFLECT ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

BY RODERICK J. MACDONALD

AS PROVIDED FOR IN OUR CONSTITUTION, ANY MEMBER MAY RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO OUR CONSTITUTION. THESE ARE TO BE IN WRITTEN FORM, AND PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE PRIOR TO THE CONVENTION. THEY WILL BE PART OF THE ELECTION. AFTER STUDYING OUR CONSTITUTION, I HAVE 18 AMENDMENTS I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT 1: PREAMBLE

CHANGE THE WORDS, "EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES," TO READ, "EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES."

AMENDMENT 2: ARTICLE II, SECTION 1:

CHANGE THE WORDS, "DEAF-BLIND ADULTS," TO READ, "DEAF-BLIND PERSONS."

AMENDMENT 3: ARTICLE II, SECTION 1:

CHANGE THE WORDS, "...THE ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL WELFARE AND MORALE OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS," TO READ, "...THE ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS, AND IMPROVING THE MORALE AMONG DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS."

AMENDMENT 4: ARTICLE III, SECTION 5:

CHANGE THE WORDS, "OUTSTANDING WORK ON

BEHALF OF THE AADB," TO READ, "OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE FIELD OF DEAF-BLINDNESS. HONORARY MEMBERS SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY DUES."

AMENDMENT 5: ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2:

CHANGE PART (A) TO READ: "TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE OR TO A BOARD POSITION, A CANDIDATE MUST HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR AT LEAST TWELVE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE UPON WHICH BALLOTS ARE TO BE COUNTED."

AMENDMENT 6: ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2:

CHANGE PART (B) TO READ: "ELECTIONS SHALL TAKE PLACE BY A SECRET BALLOT. VOTING SHALL BE BY MAIL. COUNTING OF BALLOTS SHALL BE DONE BY THREE PERSONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD. THESE THREE PERSONS SHALL CONSIST OF AN ACTIVE AND AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER, NEITHER OF WHOM MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE ELECTION AS A CANDIDATE, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN OUTSIDE AGENCY. BALLOTS SHALL BE MAILED TO ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE."

AMENDMENT 7: ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2:

CHANGE PART (C) TO READ: "ALL CANDIDATES MUST DECLARE THEIR CANDIDACY AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE UPON WHICH BALLOTS ARE TO BE COUNTED. THE SECRETARY SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE MEMBERSHIP LIST TO EACH CANDIDATE REQUESTING IT, AFTER THE CANDIDATE HAS ANNOUNCED HIS OR HER CANDIDACY. CAMPAIGNING IS ENCOURAGED. ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CANDIDACY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY IN WRITING NO LATER THAN THE DEADLINE SPECIFIED FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS."

THE SECRETARY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CANDIDACY FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE VOICE OF THE ELECTION YEAR. BALLOTS SHALL BE SENT OUT AT LEAST FORTY DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE UPON WHICH BALLOTS ARE TO BE COUNTED; THIS DATE WILL NORMALLY OCCUR DURING THE ANNUAL CONVENTION. SHOULD THIS SCHEDULE PRESENT ANY PROBLEMS, THE BOARD SHALL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FINDING A SUITABLE SOLUTION. NO MEMBER SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE WHO HAS NOT BEEN A MEMBER FOR AT LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE UPON WHICH BALLOTS ARE TO BE COUNTED. THE TIMETABLE FOR THE ELECTION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE IN ADVANCE.

AMENDMENT 8: ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2:

CHANGE PART (D) TO READ: "THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE VOICE PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, OR SUCH OTHER ISSUE AS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD, SHALL BE SET ASIDE FOR THE USE OF THE CANDIDATES TO ANNOUNCE THEIR CANDIDACY. EACH CANDIDATE MAY SUBMIT A RESUME, OR OTHER STATEMENT PERTINENT TO THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, FOR PUBLICATION."

AMENDMENT 9: ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2:

CHANGE PART (E) TO READ: "THE CANDIDATE RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES FOR THE OFFICE FOR WHICH HE OR SHE IS A CANDIDATE SHALL BE ELECTED TO THAT OFFICE. THE TEN CANDIDATES RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES FOR BOARD POSITIONS SHALL BE ELECTED TO THE BOARD."

AMENDMENT 10: ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2:

CHANGE PART (F) TO READ: "OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS SHALL BE INSTALLED, AFTER BALLOTS HAVE BEEN COUNTED, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTION, AND SHALL SERVE FOR TWO YEARS. BALLOTING SHALL BE ENTIRELY BY MAIL. COUNTING OF BALLOTS MAY BE DONE AT THE CONVENTION, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD. COMPLETED BALLOTS SHALL BE MAILED TO THE SECRETARY, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SAFETY UNTILL THEY ARE OPENED BY THE THREE PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO COUNT BALLOTS. IN THE EVENT OF A TIE VOTE, OR IN THE CASE OF A VACANT OFFICE OR POSITION ON THE BOARD, THE POSITION OR OFFICE IN QUESTION WILL BE FILLED BY VOTE OF THE BOARD."

AMENDMENT 11: ARTICLE V, SECTION 2:

ADD PART (D) AS FOLLOWS: "SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES."

AMENDMENT 12: ARTICLE V, SECTION 3:

ADD PART (D) AS FOLLOWS: "SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES."

AMENDMENT 13: ARTICLE V, SECTION 4:

IN PART (E), CHANGE THE WORD, "ROLES," TO "ROLLS."

AMENDMENT 14: ARTICLE V, SECTION 4:

ADD PART (F) AS FOLLOWS: "SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES IF ELIGIBLE TO VOTE."

AMENDMENT 15: ARTICLE V, SECTION 5:

ADD PART (I) AS FOLLOWS: "SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES."

AMENDMENT 16: ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1:

CHANGE PART (D) TO READ: "TO QUALIFY AS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE BOARD, THE CANDIDATE MUST HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE AADB FOR AT LEAST TWELVE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEEDING THE DATE UPON WHICH VOTES ARE TO BE COUNTED."

AMENDMENT 17: ARTICLE X, SECTION 1:

CHANGE THIS SECTION TO READ: "THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, IF ONE IS HELD, BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE VOTES CAST. AMENDMENTS MAY ALSO BE MADE BY MAIL, AS PART OF THE BIENNIAL ELECTION, AGAIN BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE VOTES CAST. AMENDMENTS OR CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE RECOMMENDED BY ANY MEMBER. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY AT LEAST NINETY DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE UPON WHICH BALLOTS ARE TO BE COUNTED, OR NINETY DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, AS THE CASE MAY BE."

AMENDMENT 18: ARTICLE X, SECTION 2:

CHANGE THIS SECTION TO READ: "PROPOSED AMENDMENTS SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OR BIENNIAL ELECTION. IN THE CASE OF THE BIENNIAL ELECTION, PROPOSED AMENDMENTS SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT. WHEN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, ANY MEMBER UNABLE TO ATTEND AND ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, MAY WRITE TO THE SECRETARY TO REQUEST A SPECIAL BALLOT UPON WHICH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WILL BE PRINTED. ANY SUCH BALLOTS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY PRIOR TO THE VOTE AT THE CONVENTION SHALL BE COUNTED ALONG WITH THE VOTES CAST AT THE CONVENTION."

"THE VOICE"

RODERICK J. MACDONALD, EDITOR
466 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
FREMONT, CALIFORNIA 94538

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The Voice

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

American Association of the Deaf-Blind

Editor

RODERICK J. MACDONALD

1910-E BARRYMORE COMMON

FREMONT, CALIFORNIA 94538

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No. 3

Table of Contents

Article	Page
EDITORIAL	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	1
CONVENTION NEWS	
By Arthur Roehrig.....	4
WORDS OF WISDOM	
By Aslaug Haviland.....	6
INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS	
By Michelle J. Smithdas.....	7
PROFILE: ARTHUR ROEHRIG	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	9
COLORADO PLANS FOR AADB IN 1982	
By Nancy Mengel Rosen.....	12
TREASURER'S REPORT	
By Michelle J. Smithdas.....	14
ELECTION NEWS	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	15
WHERE THEY COME FROM	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	21
A WISH FOR YOU	
By Kathleen C. Spear.....	24
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	25
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE DEAF-BLIND	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	27

EDITORIAL

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

By now, THE VOICE is pretty much back in the groove, but unfortunately, it is also very late in reaching readers. It is fairly easy to get the large-print edition out, for once the manuscript is ready, it takes only a week to ten days before the magazine is on its way to readers. The Braille edition, however, is another story. Although the manuscript was sent to the printer in mid-January for the December issue, it had not reached Braille readers by mid-March. For this reason, I plan to gradually produce the magazine earlier and earlier, until we can have it reach everyone during the month for which it is dated. As a result, I must request that any material intended for the June, 1981, issue reach me no later than May 15.

Through the efforts of one of our most devoted members, Sophie Agardy, we have such very good news to report this time. The Xavier Society for the Blind

has offered to pay for the production of one issue of THE VOICE per year in Braille. As if this generosity were not enough, the Xavier Society has also donated a large-print typewriter to assist us in producing the large-print edition with better-quality type. This typewriter will be used as soon as it has been repaired--it was damaged in the mail on its way to California. I am sure all members and readers will join with me in a very special "thank you" to Ms. Karen Jernigan and Father Anthony LeBau of the Xavier Society for the Blind for this very welcome assistance.

Congratulations to Nancy Mengel on her marriage February 14 to Mr. Stuart Rosenwaig. After a brief honeymoon in Las Vegas, Nancy and Stuart are back at work helping disabled people in the Denver metropolitan area. Nancy reports that in order to help friends remember her new name a little more easily, she has shortened it and would like everyone to call her "Nancy Rosen." Three cheers and a pinch of confetti to the new couple!

Deaf-Blind people throughout the world, as well as everyone having an

interest in their welfare, were saddened at the passing of Dr. Peter Salmon on January 23. Dr. Salmon devoted more than 60 years of his life to helping deaf-blind persons. He was the founder of what we all know today as the Helen Keller National Center. Although in his mid-80's, Dr. Salmon led a very active life up to the time of his death.

In the December issue of THE VOICE, we asked readers to make contributions to assist in the production of this magazine. We would like to express our thanks to Sonia Sabath, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and to Klara Johnson, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who made very generous donations. This money will be deposited in the AADB treasury, and will be used to support THE VOICE.

It is probable that this will be the last issue of the magazine to reach you before the convention in June. I hope to meet as many of you in Washington as possible. Let's make this the biggest and best convention yet!

My sincere apology to all readers for the late appearance of this issue. The material was ready in early March, but our typewriter had been damaged in

the mail, and it took well over a month to have it fixed, fitted with appropriate ribbons, and made ready for use. I sincerely hope that the June issue will be out before the end of June in large-print form, and in Braille by July.

Convention News

By

Arthur Roehrig

AADB Board Member

Chairman, Convention Committee

You are cordially invited to attend the Sixth Open Convention of Deaf-Blind Persons to be held June 20-27, 1981, in Washington, D.C. The convention is being jointly sponsored by the American Association of the Deaf-Blind, the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, and Gallaudet College. As the host institution, Gallaudet College looks forward to active participation in this very special event.

Such a convention is important for a number of reasons. 1981 has been designated as the International Year of

Disabled Persons. This convention will provide a unique opportunity for a large and diverse group to get together to share common concerns and special needs. Support of, and participation in, this program can help to further the goals and objectives of deaf-blind persons throughout the world.

The activities planned for the convention will be interesting, educational and enjoyable. Mornings will be devoted to group and committee meetings. Recreational activities on campus will coincide with these meetings. In the afternoons, a variety of on-campus activities and off-campus tours are planned. Among the exciting tours planned are tours of the White House, Capitol Hill, national monuments, and the museums of the Smithsonian Institute and the National Cathedral. The evenings will provide an opportunity for socializing in a variety of settings on campus. A Las Vegas night, drama-play, and our annual banquet are just a few of the evening activities planned.

A convention fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) will be charged to each deaf-blind participant to cover the cost

of lodging, food, and recreational activities.

If you are interested in joining us for this exciting convention, or if you would like further information, please write as soon as possible to: Arthur Roehrig, Hearing-Vision Impaired Programs, Gallaudet College, 7th & Florida Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Words of Wisdom

By Aslaug Haviland

There are three kinds of people in all types of organizations - Rowboat People, Sailboat People, and Steamboat People. Rowboat People need to be pushed or moved along. Sailboat People move when a favorable wind is blowing. Steamboat People move continuously through calm or storm. They are usually master of themselves, their surroundings, and their fate.

International Year for Disabled Persons

By

Michelle J. Smithdas

AADB Treasurer

At a meeting at the United Nations in New York City on January 19, 1981, several hundred disabled and non-handicapped persons gathered for New York City's official opening of the International Year for Disabled Persons.

There were a number of prominent speakers, including Jean Ripert, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, U.N.; Mayor Edward Koch of New York City; Alan Reich, President of the U.S. Council for the IYDP; and Rosemary Lamb, who represented Governor Hugh Carey of New York State.

The theme of the meeting focused on meeting the needs of the 150 million disabled persons around the world. Before the close of the meeting, the audience was given an opportunity to speak and give their viewpoints and hopes in meeting the needs of the disabled, and providing services for equal opportunities for handicapped persons.

This year, attention will be focused on mobilizing public awareness encouraging public and private business to employ the handicapped; providing barrier-free environments; highlight contributions made by disabled persons; providing cooperation in the prevention of disabilities; foster research; increase rehabilitation services; and review Federal and State funding for new initiatives of benefit to disabled persons.

THE IYDP ACTIVITIES ARE HIGHLY SYMBOLIC AND MUST CONTINUE BEYOND! Several speakers emphasized that we must learn to cooperate, identify common problems, and establish an adequate advocacy system.

Harold O'Flaherty, Executive Director of the Federal Inter-agency Council for the IYDP, summed up the goals of the effort by quoting Gertrude Stein: "For a difference to be a difference, it has to make a difference."

[illegible]

PROFILE: Arthur Roehrig

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

Arthur Adolph Roehrig was born on May 13, 1943, on a dairy farm near Marytown, Wisconsin, the youngest of two children. His family has operated this farm for more than 150 years.

Art was born profoundly deaf, but with normal vision. His early education was at the St. John's School for the Deaf in Milwaukee, from 1947 through May of 1959, and then the St. Rita School for the Deaf in Cincinnati, Ohio, from 1959 through his graduation from high school in 1963.

Art's first ambition was to teach mathematics, and toward this end he enrolled at Gallaudet College after his graduation from high school. Art has always been a keen sports fan, and lettered in both football and wrestling at Gallaudet.

After graduating from Gallaudet College in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics, Art worked at Gallaudet College as a mathematics tutor,

dormitory supervisor, and assistant wrestling coach. After a year of this, he moved to the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick, Maryland, where he worked as a mathematics teacher, tutor, substitute teacher, and pee-wee football coach.

During his senior year at Gallaudet, Art began losing his eyesight, and by October of 1971 his vision deteriorated to the point where he had to resign his teaching job. In January of 1972, he was accepted as an in-patient at the National Institute of Health in Washington, D.C., where his vision problem was diagnosed as Retinitis Pigmentosa. It was then that it was realized that Art was deaf-blind as the result of Usher's Syndrome.

After leaving NIH, Art returned to Gallaudet College, where he worked in the counseling department for several months. In June of 1972, he tried out for the wrestling team that would represent the United States in the 1973 World Olympics for the Deaf. Art made the team, qualifying in the 189-pound class. He practiced wrestling all that summer, but in the fall, on the advice

of doctors at NIH, he retired from wrestling because of an enlarged heart.

Art spent the summers of 1972 and 1973 as a trainee at the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults in New York, where he learned many skills necessary for a deaf-blind person to live independently.

In August of 1972, Art began his work toward a Master's Degree in Counseling on a scholarship from Gallaudet College. This was in Gallaudet's newly-established School Counselor Training Program, which Art helped to establish. While undergoing this training, he worked as a practicum student in various service facilities in the Washington, D.C. area, and was also an intern counselor, working with deaf-blind students, at the Perkins School for the Blind. Art received his Master of Arts Degree in Counseling from Gallaudet in May of 1974. He thus became the second deaf-blind person to earn a Master's degree.

After earning his Master's degree, Art joined the staff at Gallaudet College on a permanent basis as a special assistant for deaf-blind programs. He is now Director of Hearing-Vision

Impaired Programs at Gallaudet, and enjoys his work very much.

Art still retains some useful vision, although he is no longer able to follow fingerspelling and sign language by visual observation. He is gradually learning to read Braille tactually.

Art has been active in the AADB for several years now, and in 1979 was elected to our Board of Directors. This year, he is Chairperson of the Planning Committee for our 1981 Convention.

"I always wanted to help other people," he says. "There are so many others who are less fortunate than myself. I have deep sympathy for them."

Colorado Plans for AADB in 1982

By

Nancy Mengel Rosen, Chairperson
AADB Colorado Planning Committee

Plans are running smoothly for the AADB coming to Colorado in 1982. If AADB members vote for Colorado at this year's convention at Gallaudet, the 1982 convention will be held at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. AADB

has been offered the use of two large modern dormitories that can accommodate 300 to 500 deaf-blind people, their guides and interpreters. There will be large meeting rooms for convention sessions and many small lounges for informal get-togethers.

Greeley is a city of 60,000 people located 30 miles east of the Rocky Mountains and 50 miles north of Denver. The University has an enrollment of over 10,000 students. It is noted for its program in training counselors and teachers for the deaf.

We are presently investigating the possibility of having some of the students act as guides and interpreters for AADB Delegates. We are also planning for special events that might include a picnic for delegates in the Rocky Mountains, a western barbecue, square dancing, captioned films, an art show for and by our deaf-blind members, and displays of devices for the deaf-blind.

To help our committee choose which events are best for AADB, we would like to receive comments from our members. I will see you in Washington this summer, but in the meantime you can write to me

in ink print or simple Braille. The address is: Nancy Mengel Rosen, Chairperson, AADB Colorado Planning Committee, Commission of the Disabled, 1167 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, Colorado 80204.

Treasurer's Report

By

Michelle J. Smithdas

At the time of the convention in June, 1980, the AADB treasury had a balance of \$1957.20. After the convention and during July, deposits were made totalling \$1985.00. The bank balance and deposited funds totalled \$3942.20.

On August 25, 1980, a disbursement was made for \$25.00 to the Secretary of State of Illinois, giving a balance of \$3917.20.

On September 8, 1980, deposits were made totalling \$307.50, giving a balance of \$4224.70.

On October 3, 1980, a disbursement for \$111.26 was made to Omega Graphics, and a check for \$500.00 to Dennis

Schreiber, giving a balance of \$3613.44.

On October 31, 1980, deposits were made totalling \$452.50, giving a balance of \$4065.94.

On December 29, 1980, deposits were made totalling \$85.00. This gives a final balance in the AADB treasury at the end of 1980 of \$4150.94.

Of the 40 pledges received during the convention, only 23 have been honored. It is hoped that the remaining 17 pledges will be received before the 1981 convention.

Election News

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

As mentioned in past issues of THE VOICE, in order for a candidate to be elected to office or to the Board of Directors in the AADB, the candidate must announce his or her candidacy at least three months prior to the election, and must also be nominated by another person. A number of candidates announced their candidacy in the September and December issues, and others

are announcing in this issue. In addition, a large number of persons were nominated. I am very pleased that everyone who announced his or her candidacy was also nominated by someone else. Others - who were nominated, did not announce their candidacy, or announced candidacy for another position from the one for which they were nominated.

Herewith are the announcements of candidacy and nomination. Our final list contains at least one candidate for each office, and twelve candidates for the ten positions on our Board of Directors. I am sure all members will join me in wishing each candidate good luck in the coming election!

* * * * *

Mr. Stephen Barrett, South-Central R Regional Representative for the Helen Keller National Center, wishes to announce his candidacy for the office of AADB Secretary.

* * * * *

Mr. Austin Berkey, a Computer Programmer for the Army Finance Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, wishes to announce his candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

Delores Follette, a student at Ohlone Community College in Fremont, California, wishes to announce her candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Karen Jernigan, Coordinator of the Deaf-Blind Department at the Xavier Society of the Blind in New York City, wishes to announce her candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Klara Johnson, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, wishes to announce her candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Robert L. Miller, for some 40 years director of programs for deaf-blind persons at the San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind, and now retired and living in Kona, Hawaii, wishes to announce his candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Arthur Roehrig, a member of the AADB Board of Directors, and Director of Hearing-Vision Impaired Programs at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C.,

wishes to announce his candidacy for re-election to the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Dennis J. Schreiber, President of the AADB, and a Community Development Specialist with the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, wishes to announce his candidacy for re-election as President of the AADB.

* * * * *

Kathleen Spear, a graduate student at the California State University at Northridge, wishes to announce her candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Elaine Van Duser, of Batavia, New York, wishes to announce her candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Charlotte Whitacre, a Counselor's Aide at the Lions Blind Center in Oakland, California, and a full-time student at Ohlone Community College in Fremont, wishes to announce her candidacy to become a member of the AADB Board of Directors.

Roderick Macdonald wishes to NOMINATE the following persons for positions on the AADB Board of Directors: Delores Follette and Robert L. Miller.

* * * * *

John Boyer wishes to NOMINATE Dennis Schreiber for re-election as AADB President.

* * * * *

Robert Smithdas wishes to NOMINATE Karen Jernigan and Charlotte Whitacre for positions on the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Michelle Smithdas wishes to NOMINATE Stephen Barrett for the office of AADB Secretary.

* * * * *

Aslaug Haviland wishes to NOMINATE Klara Johnson for a position on the AADB Board of Directors.

* * * * *

Dennis Schreiber wishes to NOMINATE the following persons for office and/or board positions: Treasurer - John Boyer; Secretary - William Schweihs; Board Members - Martin Adler, Eleanora Albasini, Dan Autrey, Richard Bell, Dennis Dildy, Helen Guldin, Janice Den Hartog, James Hogan, and Edith Simons.

Dennis Dildy wishes to NOMINATE the following persons for office and/or board positions: First Vice-President - Arthur Roehrig; Second Vice-President - Stephen Ehrlich; Treasurer - Edith Simons; Board Members - John Boyer. Mr. Dildy would also like to SECOND the nominations of the following persons: President - Dennis Schreiber; Secretary - William Schweihs; Board Members - Richard Bell and Helen Guldin.

Final List of Candidates for AADB Office & Board Positions

PRESIDENT:	Roderick Macdonald Dennis Schreiber
1st VICE PRESIDENT:	Robert Smithdas
2nd VICE PRESIDENT:	Aslaug Haviland
SECRETARY:	Stephen Barrett
TREASURER:	Martin Greenberg
BOARD MEMBERS:	Nancy Mengel Rosen
Austin Berkey	Robert Miller
Harold Buzzard	Arthur Roehrig
Stephen Ehrlich	Michelle Smithdas
Delores Follette	Kathleen Spear
Karen Jernigan	Elaine Van Duser
Klara Johnson	Charlotte Whitacre

Where They Come From

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

Whenever a large number of people get together from places near and far, there is often a healthy amount of rivalry among those present when it comes to representation from their home area, and our AADB conventions are no exception. Few people, however, have an accurate idea of who the "winner" is, which adds to the fun because then everyone can claim to be a winner!

Some readers may find it interesting to know where the most people come from at our conventions, though, and a little research on last year's convention might settle some of the debates that always crop up over the old campfires at cookouts, not to mention at our famous convention parties. It is hoped that this brief report might be of some interest.

Actually, this report may not settle any final arguments, because the lists of participants from our 1980 convention are not complete. For one

thing, although there were 102 names on the list of volunteers, only 82 were accompanied by addresses, and we do not have any way of knowing where the other 20 came from. They were therefore left out of the following table. In addition, one person was listed on the list of deaf-blind participants who was not deaf-blind, and that person was also left off.

As might be expected, the host state--Massachusetts--had the largest representation, but New York set the pace with the largest number of deaf-blind participants. It should be interesting to compare the turnout at this year's convention with last year, and we plan to follow up with a report on the convention in a future issue.

AADB CONVENTION
Watertown, MA 1980

DEAF-BLIND

STATE	PARTICIPANTS	VOLUNTEERS	TOTAL
1 MA	13	18	31
2 NY	20	8	28
3 CA	10	10	20
4 MI	9	4	13
5 TX	6	6	12

DEAF-BLIND

STATE	PARTICIPANTS	VOLUNTEERS	TOTAL
6-7 Canada	6	5	11
6-7 IL	7	4	11
8 OH	5	5	10
9-10 LA	6	2	8
9-10 MN	5	3	8
11 CO	4	2	6
12-15 KS	4	0	4
12-15 MD	2	2	4
12-15 TN	3	1	4
12-15 WI	2	2	4
16-20 CT	2	1	3
16-20 IN	3	0	3
16-20 NJ	1	2	3
16-20 NM	1	2	3
16-20 UT	2	1	3
21-25 DC	0	2	2
21-25 FL	2	0	2
21-25 IA	2	0	2
21-25 MO	1	1	2
21-25 PA	1	1	2
26-31 AR	0	1	1
26-31 GA	0	1	1
26-31 NV	1	0	1
26-31 NC	1	0	1
26-31 WA	1	0	1
26-31 WV	1	0	1
	<u>82</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>205</u>

A Wish for You

Kathleen C. Spear

May the angels in heaven preserve you
In whatever endeavor you choose;
May the wisdom of Heaven invade you
To enhance every skill you use;
And if there are times when you wonder
Just where you fit into God's plan,
May he bless you with peace in
the knowledge
That he guides you with his
loving hand.

But God's ways are not easy to fathom,
So if he denies you a dream
May the angels and wisdom sustain you,
For things often are not what they seem;
When you've given up hope and feel lonely,
'cause you've tried just as hard
as you can
Don't forget that God loves you
and guides you
Into some special role in His plan.

Proposed Amendments

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

In the December VOICE, we published the AADB Constitution and 18 proposed amendments to that constitution. As required by the Constitution, all amendments must be published in THE VOICE prior to be voted upon.

Our President, in his "President's Corner" article that appeared in the December issue, mentioned that there have been suggestions that our magazine be re-named. Three names have been submitted to date: "THE NEW VOICE" - submitted by Launa Autrey (and others); "THE AADB VOICE" - submitted by Nancy Mengel Rosen; and "THE VOICE OF THE DEAF-BLIND", submitted by Aslaug Haviland. In order that these names might be voted upon at our June convention, I am here-with submitting three Constitutional Amendments to cover the name change. All members are urged to think this important matter over, and be ready to cast your vote in June.

AMENDMENT 19: Article III, sections 2(D), 2(H), and 6(B); Article X, section 2; and Article XII, sections 1 and 2(A): Change "THE VOICE" to "THE NEW VOICE."

AMENDMENT 20: Article III, sections 2(D), 2(H), and 6(B); Article X, section 2; and Article XII, sections 1 and 2(A): Change "THE VOICE" to "THE AADB VOICE."

AMENDMENT 21: Article III, sections 2(D), 2(H), and 6(B); Article X, section 2; and Article XII, sections 1 and 2(A): Change "THE VOICE" to "THE VOICE OF THE DEAF-BLIND."

            

Discrimination Against the Deaf-Blind

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

Late last June, Jimmy and Dorothy Hogan, of Jefferson, Indiana, set off to attend the 1980 AADB Convention, only to be denied passage on US Airlines. Although Jimmy and Dorothy were able to join us in Watertown a few days later, the discrimination practiced against them by USAir was not forgotten. Officials of the airline claimed that they were justified in denying service to the Hogans for safety reasons, although other deaf-blind persons flew to Boston on other USAir flights without incident.

It is my understanding that the president of US Airlines went on national television on December 1, 1980, to announce that USAir had adopted a new policy which allowed deaf-blind persons to fly on USAir flights.

On April 1, 1981, the Airline Tariff Publishing Company, acting as agent, published new local and joint passenger rules, tariff no. PR-7. Of special interest is Rule 34, which became effec-

tive April 2, 1981, under Special Tariff Permission No. 72124 of the Civil Aeronautics Board. This rule reads as follows:

SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES

RULE 34

TRANSPORT OF ACCOMPANIED

BLIND AND DEAF PASSENGERS

(A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS RULE

- (1) A blind and deaf passenger is defined as a passenger who is considered both legally blind and deaf. This must be verified by a medical certificate issued by an authorized medical authority.
- (2) Accompanying attendant is any able-bodied person at least 18 years of age who will be responsible for assisting the blind and deaf passenger to an exit in the event of an emergency and attending to the personal needs of the blind and deaf passenger during flight.

(B) ACCEPTANCE OF BLIND AND DEAF PASSENGER

(1) Carrier will accept for transportation a blind and deaf passenger who has an accompanying attendant for all portions of the trip.

(2) A medical certificate must be submitted in duplicate to carrier at the time of check in by the accompanying attendant.

(C) CHARGE FOR ACCOMPANYING ATTENDANT
Carrier accepts for transportation, without charge, one accompanying attendant for each blind and deaf passenger for all portions of the blind and deaf passenger's trip.

(D) LIABILITY

Carrier is not liable for its refusal to transport any blind and deaf passenger and accompanying attendant that does not comply with the preceding paragraphs of this rule; but such carrier will refund the blind and deaf passenger's ticket in accordance with rule 260 (REFUND - INVOLUNTARY).

This new rule applies only to US Airlines' flights originating in the United States. A telephone call to the nearest USAir office for clarification disclosed the following:

(1) USAir requires that each_and every deaf-blind person must be accompanied by an attendant. This means, for example, that if a deaf-blind husband and wife wish to travel on USAir, they must have two attendants travel with them on all flights. They will not be allowed on the airplane unless each has an attendant .

(2) Deaf-blind persons who have flown alone in the past cannot now fly on USAir flights unless they have an attendant with them for all portions of their trip.

As an organization, we have sought the two-for-one airfare for some time now because some deaf-blind people cannot travel alone. However, it was never our intention to force us to travel with a companion. Some of us are very proud of our independant travel skills, and rightly so. We should have the right to travel alone if we wish.

The fourteenth amendment to the U.S.

Constitution guarantees to all the people equal treatment under the laws. This means that what is provided to some people in the way of public services must be provided to all the people on an equal basis. The responsibility is with the provider of the services to provide equally for all, not with the individual to make himself or herself equal to others. In this case, USAir is refusing to accept the responsibility of providing for all passengers--they are asking the deaf-blind person to find someone else who will be willing to accept that responsibility.

Although USAir is an important airline, providing major service on the eastern half of the country, there is a real danger that other airlines will adopt this policy too. It is important that we join together to oppose this rule, which denies us the right to travel freely. We would like to see the two-for-one airfare adopted, but not at the expense of giving up our right to travel freely as individuals, if we so choose.

In protest against this discrimination, the Helen Keller National Center

has instructed the Center's staff to fly on any other airline except USAir. Several other agencies are expected to follow this example by forbidding employees to fly with USAir. I would like to urge each of you to do likewise --fly with any airline except USAir if at all possible. If they find their business is hurting, they will think more understandingly about where we are hurting.

This situation will no doubt be an important issue for discussion at our convention in June, but it is also important that we speak out for what is right. I would like to urge each of you to write a letter to your congressman to let him know that you oppose this unfair rule. I would also suggest that you write to USAir to let them know how you feel. The address is: Mr. David H. Shipley, Vice-President - Public Relations, US Airlines, Washington National Airport, Washington, D.C. 20001 (telephone: 703/892-7096).

If you do write, either to your congressman or to USAir, please send me a copy of your letters so that we can keep them on file as proof of our united effort to oppose this discrimination.

Table of Contents

Article

Page

EDITORIAL

By Roderick J. Macdonald.....1

CONTROVERSIAL AIRLINE POLICY

By Roderick J. Macdonald.....3

PROPOSED BY-LAWS

By Stephen Ehrlich.....5

PROFILE: STEPHEN EHRLICH

By Roderick J. Macdonald.....13

WELL-BEING OF THE DEAF-BLIND IN CHINA

By Wu Houde & Tian Sonsong.....17

DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE GO CAMPING

By Janice Den Hartog.....30

LETTER TO AADB MEMBERS

By Janie N. Steele.....34

1981 AADB CONVENTION

By Roderick J. Macdonald.....36

EDITORIAL

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

As we go to press with this issue, our 1981 convention has just been completed--the biggest and best yet! I hope we will have a full report on this event in the September issue of THE VOICE.

In the March issue, we made two errors which need to be corrected. First, in the article entitled, "Where They Came From," we gave 82 as the total number of deaf-blind participants in the 1980 convention, and 123 volunteers. This should have read 123 deaf-blind persons and 82 volunteers. Also, in the article entitled, "Discrimination Against the Deaf-Blind," we indicated that Jimmy and Dorothy Hogan are from Jefferson, Indiana; this should be Jeffersonville, Indiana. Sorry!

All readers will join with our Ohio friends in sorrow on the loss of JoAnne Ormsby, a long-time helper and friend of deaf-blind persons in Ohio.

Ms. Ormsby travelled to Washington to attend our recent convention, but became very ill on Sunday and had to return to Ohio. She died on July 21 as the result of pneumonia and complications. She will be dearly missed by the many deaf-blind people she helped for many years.

This issue contains a set of proposed by-laws submitted by Mr. Stephen Ehrlich, Chairperson of our by-laws committee. They were to have been voted upon at our recent convention, but time did not permit. With board approval, we will ask members to vote on these by-laws by mail, as well as the constitutional amendments published in previous issues of the magazine. We will use the list of eligible voters drawn up at our convention. We ask that you read the by-laws carefully so that you will be ready to vote on them when we conduct the mail vote. This should be sometime after the Braille edition of this issue is mailed to readers, so that all will have a chance to study the by-laws before voting.

Controversial Airline Policy

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

In the March issue of "THE VOICE", I wrote an article on the subject of the newly-adopted policy by USair which allows a deaf-blind person and a companion to fly for the price of one ticket. The same policy, however, will not permit a deaf-blind person to fly unless accompanied by a companion.

In writing that article, I was expressing my own personal opinion, although I thought my views would be shared by most deaf-blind people. Actually, I do not know that this is true.

A famous English politician once said "I am a leader, therefore I must follow the people." I believe in this philosophy very much. As your newly-elected President, I feel that when I take action as AADB President, I must follow what I believe to be what you want done. I would therefore like to ask each of you to write and let me know your views on this airline policy matter; I will be following up on what the majority of you want, but I will need to know what this is before I can do so.

So far, six people have written to me expressing their opinions on this issue. One person felt the policy was a very good idea, that deaf-blind people cannot travel safely alone and therefore the required companion is a good idea. Another person wrote to express the view that the whole idea of the two-for-one airfare was wrong, that deaf-blind people should be treated just like everyone else, with the same rights and privileges, and should have to pay for services like others. Three people expressed strong support for the two-for-one airfare, while at the same time expressing strong opposition to the requirement that deaf-blind people must have companions in order to fly. The sixth person took the approach that, while some people might be inconvenienced by the requirement, we should try out the system for a year and see how it goes.

As you can see, there are many views on this subject. I would like to ask that you write to me--in print or in Braille--to let me know your feelings on this matter. The six I have already heard from represent a fairly good sampling--three deaf-blind people, one U.S. Senator,

one member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and one official of a national organization of the deaf. I hope I will be hearing from more of you so that the course of action we pursue will be what the majority of you want.

Proposed By-Laws

By

Stephen Ehrlich

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be as provided in the Constitution.

Section 2. Active and Associate memberships shall be for a period of one year commencing on the date upon which dues are paid.

Section 3. Honorary membership in the AADB shall be for the lifetime of the person upon whom such membership is conferred.

Section 4. All applications for Active and Associate membership shall be to the Treasurer, and must be accompanied by payment of appropriate dues.

Section 5. The membership of any person

may be revoked if said person is found to oppose the goals and purposes of the organization or to engage in any activity detrimental to the best interests of the organization. Such action may be taken by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Any person whose membership has been revoked may appeal for reinstatement. Such person may be reinstated to full membership by a majority vote of the members voting at the annual meeting or convention.

ARTICLE II - DUES

Section 1. The annual dues for Active and Associate membership in this organization shall be five United States dollars. The amount of such dues may be changed by action of the Board of Directors. Any such action of the Board of Directors shall automatically amend this section.

Section 2. Failure to pay annual dues, within thirty days of the due date, and after notice from the Treasurer, shall automatically terminate membership. Reinstatement to full member-

ship will be permitted upon payment of dues.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Government of this organization shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall be subject to the will of the membership.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have control of the property and management of the organization, subject to the will of the membership. Funds of the organization shall be withdrawn from the bank or banks with which they are on deposit by the joint signature of the President and the Treasurer.

Section 3. Should the office of the President become vacant, it shall be filled by the First Vice-President.

Section 4. Should the office of the First Vice-President become vacant, it shall be filled by the Second Vice-President.

Section 5. Should a vacancy occur for any position on the Board of Directors other than for President or First Vice-President, such position shall be filled by vote of the Board

of Directors. Such appointee shall serve until the next regular election.

Section 6. Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from such position if found to oppose the goals and purposes of the organization, for failure to carry out the duties of the position, or for engaging in any activity detrimental to the best interests of the organization. Such action may be taken by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Any person removed from a position on the Board of Directors may appeal for reinstatement. Such person may be reinstated to the same position on the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the members voting at the annual meeting or convention.

Section 8. In carrying out the business of the organization, the Board of Directors shall adhere to the provisions of the Constitution, these By-Laws, and any Resolutions or Policies adopted by the membership.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTION

Section 1. Not less than ninety days prior to the election, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a Nominating Committee consisting of three persons. These shall be the three persons provided for by Article IV, Section 2(B) of the Constitution to count the ballots in the election.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall have the responsibility of determining that all candidates have followed the procedures required and meet the criteria for candidacy; drawing up a list of members eligible to vote; determining the procedures to be followed before and during the election; announcing these procedures to all candidates in a timely manner; and overseeing the casting and counting of ballots to ensure the integrity of the election.

Section 3. No member of the Nominating Committee may be a candidate, nor may any member of the Nominating Committee engage in any activity in support of any candidate.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President, as chief officer of the organization, shall supervise the organization's affairs and activities and shall make an annual report thereon to the members. The President shall be the only person empowered to represent the organization on an official basis, but the President may delegate this authority to others as may be appropriate.

Section 2. All members of the Board of Directors shall be responsible for keeping adequate records pertaining to the carrying out of their duties. Such records shall be the property of the organization. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have the responsibility of passing on to his or her successor the records pertaining to that position.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall be responsible for notifying each member in writing when membership dues are due.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall determine the committees deemed proper

and necessary to fulfill the objectives and purposes of the organization.

Section 2. All committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The chairperson of each committee shall be responsible for reporting committee activities to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.

Section 3. All committee reports shall be kept as official records by the Secretary.

ARTICLE VII - AUTHORITY TO BIND

Section 1. No member of this organization shall contract, incur any debt, enter into any agreement or otherwise obligate this organization except by authorization of the Board of Directors or the membership.

ARTICLE VIII - POLICY

Section 1. A written policy shall be established which shall state the rules pertaining to the adoption of programs, duties of the members of

the Board of Directors and other matters of concern to the organization.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws and Policies may be amended at the annual convention, if one is held, by two-thirds of the votes cast. Amendments may also be made as part of the biennial election, again by two-thirds of the votes cast. Amendments or changes to the By-Laws and Policies may be recommended by any member. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least ninety days prior to the date upon which ballots are to be counted, or ninety days prior to the start of the annual convention, as the case may be.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be published in the organization's official publication prior to the convention or biennial election. In the case of the biennial election, proposed amendments shall be placed on the ballot. When proposed amendments are to be voted upon at the

annual convention, any member unable to attend and eligible to vote, may write to the Secretary to request a special ballot upon which the proposed amendments will be printed. Any such ballots received by the Secretary prior to the vote at the convention shall be counted along with the votes cast at the convention.

PROFILE: Stephen Ehrlich

By

Roderick Macdonald

Stephen Ehrlich was born on March 29, 1948, in Brooklyn, New York. He was the son of Jack Ehrlich and Ruth Sinert, but has not seen his parents since birth. He spent the first seventeen and one-half months of his life at the Jewish Child Care Center in New York City, and was then adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Miller, a deaf couple.

Steve was born deaf and, as it was later learned, legally blind with Retinitis Pigmentosa--Usher's Syndrome. Steve still retains some useful vision, although his visual field is very narrow.

In the Fall of 1951, Steve enrolled

at the Lexington School for the Deaf, where he remained for four years. In 1955, he transferred to Junior High School 47, better known as the Oral Day School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

During his early years in school, Steve had a hard time academically because of his inability to speak and lip-read well. However, while in the seventh grade, his work improved significantly, thanks largely to his teacher, who understood his problems.

In the Fall of 1964, Steve was admitted to William Cullen Bryant High School, which had a special program for the hearing-impaired. He first took a general course, but soon switched to an academic program that was designed for college preparation. Steve became the first deaf person to earn an academic diploma which was certified by the Regents University of the State of New York. He was also an honor student.

In the Fall of 1967, Steve enrolled at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. He selected Gallaudet because he wished to learn more about himself and life in general while away from home.

During his college years, Steve par-

ticipated in many extracurricular activities. During his sophomore year he was initiated into the Kappa Gamma fraternity, and the following year was elected Business Manager of the organization. He was also very active in sports and acting, and played parts in several college theatrical productions. Steve earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Gallaudet in May of 1972.

For six weeks after graduating from Gallaudet, Steve was an in-patient at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C., where his vision was tested. Later, in September of 1972, he began a three month training program at the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults in New York.

In February of 1973, Steve was employed as a postal clerk with the National Association of the Deaf, but after seven weeks he lost his job due to program cut-backs. Later in 1973, Steve was accepted as a graduate student in the Teacher Training Program at California State University, Northridge. He earned his Master of Arts degree in 1975.

After completing his graduate studies, Steve worked as a teacher at the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind. However, in

June of 1979 he gave up this position and moved to the Bay Area in California, where he tried for over a year to find a job that would enable him to make the best use of his skills.

While looking for employment in the San Francisco area, Steve met the former Janet Kline. They became good friends, and in due course fell in love. They were married on June 6, 1980, and spent part of their honeymoon at the 1980 AADB Convention.

During the Summer of 1980, Steve decided to try computer programming as his new career. He then enrolled as a student in the Computer Training Program for the Deaf-Blind at Ohlone College in Fremont, California. After nine months of very hard work, Steve graduated from the program in May of this year. He is presently interviewing for computer programmer positions in the Bay Area, where he hopes to live. Meanwhile, Janet has been studying hard to improve her skills in sign language, and works part-time as an interpreter and tutor with deaf and deaf-blind students.

Steve has been an active member of the AADB for some time. He served as our First Vice-President from 1979 through 1981, and was recently elected to serve as a member of our Board of Directors.

Well-Being of the Deaf-Blind in China

By

Wu Houde and Tian Sonsong

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the January 26, 1981, issue of THE BEIJING REVIEW, and is reprinted with permission from China Books & Periodicals, San Francisco. Although it does not specifically involve deaf-blindness or deaf-blind people, it is included because we felt readers would be interested in learning about services to deaf people and blind people from other countries.)

Life was harsh for most people in old China and for the blind and the deaf-mutes it was much more miserable. For many of them, there was the added humiliation of having to wander in the streets to beg for a living. It was only after the founding of New China that welfare for these unfortunate people was started and expanded. In the last 30 years much work has been done in the following fields to help them:

FINDING JOBS. All kinds of measures have been adopted to deliver these people from their plight, particularly, to help

them earn their own living. Action in this field was taken step by step with outstanding achievements.

It began in the early days of the People's Republic when the government provided those among them who had no means of livelihood with a place to live, food and clothing.

Step two was to help those with the ability to work get organized and take up whatever productive labour they were capable of. This gave them secure jobs with a regular income.

Step three. With the development of the national economy, in the late 50's, local governments in many parts of the country set up factories as part of a social welfare scheme for creating employment. Thousands of the blind and deaf were taken on as staff members or workers, while some were chosen as cadres. To date, the whole country has over 900 such factories under the auspices of civil affairs departments in the local governments at all levels.

ADDITIONAL MEASURE. These factories receive various kinds of favourable treatment from the people's government. It is stipulated that a newly-opened social

welfare factory may be exempted from taxes in the first year and further exemption may be applied for if it still has difficulties; that no income tax will be levied in a factory where over 35 per cent of the workers in its productive departments are either blind or deaf, or, income tax may be 50 per cent less in the case of a factory where the number of such workers constitutes 10 to 35 per cent. Profit made by these factories, apart from what goes for expanded reproduction, is by and large used for improving these people's livelihood.

In Chongqing, southwest China, the Hongyan factory manufacturing switches is one which in recent years has produced an annual output value equivalent to about two million U.S. dollars and a yearly profit exceeding a hundred thousand dollar. The money is used to build houses for these handicapped workers and staff members, finance nurseries, set up small farms and to provide various fringe benefits. For instance, the next of kin of its workers and staff members get free medical service (they themselves get free medical service at the expense of the state); their children are admitted to

the factory's nursery free; tuition fees and other school expenses of children at primary and middle school level are paid by the factory; its bath houses are open to all family members free, etc. Besides, whenever they fall into financial straits because of heavy family burdens or meet with some misfortune such as the death of a family member, the factory pays them subsidies; when they die, the factory is responsible for the living expenses of dependent children until they come of age.

Other avenues of employment are also open to the blind and deaf. Those with professional skill or a proper educational background may work in government offices, schools, hospitals or cultural and art units. Those who do not belong to any particular organization may take up such productive activities as knitting, or embroidering and sewing organized by the neighbourhood committee or local residents' committee. Blind people also work in clinics providing massage as a form of prescribed medical treatment.

In the countryside, local governments organize people with these physical disabilities to engage in whatever farm labour they are capable of, while requiring all

production teams to take into account their special situation in allocating work.

SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL. With a regular job and income, with a chance to show their own talent and with a secure livelihood, these people acquire an optimistic outlook. Most of them are happily married when they reach the proper age. Not a few, after painstaking efforts, have become scientists, engineers, doctors, painters, artists or advanced workers who have made contributions to society.

Cao Heng, an engineer who lost his sense of hearing at 19 following an illness, taught himself for over 20 years and finally succeeded in applying the principle of electronic computers to the work of surveying with the result that efficiency in surveying calculation was greatly raised. His book "Mathematical Language and Its Application in Surveying Calculations" has filled a blank in that field in our country. In recognition of his contribution, the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government conferred on him the title of Labour Hero.

Gan Bolin, who lost his sight in

childhood and became a begger, is now a musician. After liberation he was sent to a school for blind children and later to a training class for blind musicians. He developed his ability through diligent study and has held nearly 100 solo concerts in Beijing and elsewhere in the country. Widely acclaimed as a "fine performer of a national musical instrument," he is now in charge of the research and teaching department of national musical instruments of the Jilin Provincial Institute of Arts.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION. The Central People's Government pointed out in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic: People's governments at all levels should set up schools for the blind and the deaf and give physically incapacitated children, young people and adults a proper education enabling them to become builders with culture and scientific knowledge and professional skill.

Under the guidance of this principle, our schools for the blind and the deaf have grown in number from 41 before liberation to over 290, more than a seven-fold increase. Those enrolled in these schools now number 32,000 against a mere 3,000 in

the past, about a ten-fold increase. In many places, there are also part-work, part-study schools and technical schools, professional schools and spare-time evening schools for them; in many rural primary schools, there are special classes for deaf children.

Shanghai is one of the places in our country with some success in education for the blind and the deaf. In the 20 districts and counties under its jurisdiction there are 18 schools for the deaf, one school for the blind and one technical school. All blind and deaf children have access to a primary school education, a junior middle school education and in the case of the deaf, if they study well, to a technical school. Heilongjiang Province leads the country in its educational endeavours for the blind and the deaf in the countryside. It has 56 schools for the deaf and two schools for the blind and the deaf so that in most of the counties in the province, deaf children do not have to go to a school outside the county where they live. The Beijing Teachers' College has a special education research section under its Department of Education.

To raise these people's educational level, the state has unified the braille throughout the country, established a publishing house for the blind, founded five periodicals in braille, namely, "Knowledge and Life", "Scientific Knowledge", "Hygiene", "Selected Literary Works", and "Science for the Young" and published quantities of books in braille. The China Association of the Blind and the Deaf is also publisher of "The Blind People's Monthly" and "The Chinese Deaf People", and primers in braille. A sign language has been worked out for the deaf.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT. As a major undertaking in welfare work China's health departments have done a great deal to prevent blindness and deafness. Some exploration has been done in the field of treatment. Since such epidemic diseases as measles, diphtheria, encephalitis and trachoma which can lead to blindness or deafness have been brought under control, and also since public sanitation has been improved, the incidence of these disabilities has registered a marked decrease.

Investigations in the early days of liberation showed that trachoma was the main cause of blindness in our country.

On the average, one out of four blind people had suffered loss of vision because of trachoma. The state then started work on preventing and treating trachoma and this has reduced the cases of trachoma year by year. In Heilongjiang, for instance, the incidence of trachoma has dropped from over 70 per cent in the past to 34. The number of blind people who accounted for 0.7 per cent of the province's population in the early years of liberation has been reduced to 0.11 per cent.

Endemic goiter and cretinism, caused by iodine deficiency due to particular geographical conditions are two main factors giving rise to deafness. In northern China there are about 160 million people exposed to the menace of goiter. Cretinism occurred in places with a high incidence of goiter. Now that the state has founded specialized agencies to carry out preventive work and treatment, enormous quantities of iodine salt, iodinated edible oil and potassium iodine have been supplied to the iodine-deficient areas, with the result that the number of patients has gone down considerably. Taibai County in Shaanxi Province, northwest China has

made outstanding achievements in this respect. Today no children under 15 suffer from cretinism and now there are also no cases of blindness due to this disease.

ASSOCIATION FOUNDED. The national association of the blind and the deaf with local branches, is a people's organization. In 1954 the China Blind People's Welfare Institute was founded, and later in 1956, the China Welfare Institute of the Deaf was founded. In 1960 the first national congress of the blind and the deaf met in Beijing at which the China Association of the Blind and the Deaf was founded. Its second national congress was held in 1964.

After the "cultural revolution" began in 1966, this association and its branches at all levels were closed down and all its welfare undertakings were discontinued.

Since the downfall of the gang of four, these branches have been re-opened one by one. Last April, its third national congress met to sum up experiences and lessons from its work, amend its regulations and draw up a set of working principles.

Its constitution says: All branches must show concern for the plight of the blind and the deaf and work for their well-being. The association should strengthen ties and co-operation with its counterparts in other countries and help foster a new socialist ethic of taking care of the blind and the deaf.

The congress also elected the following persons to the national committee of the association: Cheng Zihua (honorary chairman), Wu Qian (female, chairman), Huang Nai, Li Shihan and Li Zheng (vice-chairmen), and Meng Jingzhi (advisor).

GAP AND PLAN

Leaders of the association are of the opinion that China is lagging far behind the advanced countries in work for the well-being of the blind and the deaf.

The widest gap is in educational opportunities. On a countrywide scale, not all blind and deaf children are now in school. Pre-school education is non-existent. Most of the schools for these people are primary schools, while middle and technical schools are very few in number. The schools are poorly equipped,

with almost no modern facilities. Throughout the country there is not an institute for training teachers in this special field of education.

China is a populous country and economically underdeveloped. Though the state has time and again stressed the need to help these people, there are still some places where little concern is shown for them, where not all of them have jobs.

During the "cultural revolution," not a few specialized agencies engaged in research work in preventing and treating blindness and deafness were liquidated and work in this field was seriously held back. They have been restored in the last two years and some planning has been done, but so far no marked achievements have resulted.

PLANS. What about future developments? We have entered a new epoch centring on the four modernizations, said the association leaders, and we hope to help more blind and deaf people, particularly by giving them training so that they can make contributions to the four modernizations. At the same time, as the nation's economy and culture develop, people with these handicaps will be pro-

vided with more welfare so that they can live still better. We look forward to carrying out certain specific plans:

*To develop education for these people in steps. At present, the main thing to do is to introduce universal primary school education and train teachers for this special field of education and also to gradually improve the educational standard and facilities in schools for the blind and the deaf.

*At the same time, we should wipe out illiteracy among these people, open up all types of classes for professional training, and unfold spare-time activities in culture, science and technology in order to raise their cultural and technical level.

*We must further develop the work of prevention and treatment, including related research work, stress the study of eugenics and safeguard the health of newborn babies. We hope to reduce the incidence of these afflictions to a minimum and probe for effective cures.

*Efforts should be made to find jobs for those who are capable of work, so that they can contribute to national construction.

*More publicity should be carried out. The blind and the deaf who have made outstanding achievements in studying, work and productive labour should be commended. We must give publicity to units and individuals for showing warm concern for the blind and the deaf and criticize those who frown upon and hurt them, so that society as a whole will be encouraged to emulate these units and individuals and oppose the old idea of discriminating against the blind and the deaf.

While strengthening work in this field at home, we must absorb the advanced experiences from abroad and enhance friendship with the blind and the deaf of all lands.

Deaf-Blind People Go Camping

By

Janice Den Hartog

On Friday, May 29, 1981, thirteen deaf-blind people from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area were all set for a camping weekend at MacGregor Lake, three hours north of the Twin Cities.

The event was sponsored by the Northstar Silent Lions Club and the Coon Rapids

Lions Club with other chapters also helping out. Volunteers came as well. What a great weekend it was for everyone! For some deaf-blind persons, it was the first time and what a great opportunity and experience it was for them to get in contact with the wilds of the north. The camp was equipped with gears used by handicapped persons such as rails in the bathrooms, in some cabins ramps, and a wheelchair lift near the beach. Those in wheelchairs can get onto the beach, the dock and finally onto a boat.

Everyone arrived at camp Friday night and were given their cabin assignments (five cabins in all) and dinner was served at the main building, which was also the meeting place for everyone. Afterwards, conversations followed and games were available for those who wanted to play. Some retired early for bed, while others stayed up late.

Saturday was full of fun. The day started with a bright, warm sun and a clear blue sky, thus making everyone happy and relieved not to have a rainy day ahead. After breakfast, some deaf-blind persons (without volunteers or the Lions Club members) went on a hike in the deep woods.

There was an asphalt pavement, thus making it easy for deaf-blind persons to walk through the glorious green woods. Others went out onto the beach to get ready for a fishing trip. Some people got on a pontoon boat, while others ventured onto a smaller fishing boat. Only one man, a volunteer, Jerry Wood caught a dogfish (a big one!), but threw it back as it wasn't good for eating.

After lunch, hayrides were offered in an old wagon which seemed like it was ready to fall apart anytime! Several rides were offered as the wagon was too small to hold everyone at once. It was great fun! Some deaf-blind persons went out on the lake again to fish and try their luck. Most people had no luck except for one who caught a big Northern Pike. Other people went out on a canoe (the resort had only one canoe, so people had to take turns).

A big dinner was served by the Lions Club members' wives who cooked a big roast beef. A short lecture was given after dinner to express thanks for the hard work at the camp. After dinner, some people played games, some talked and others went outdoors to "play".

On Sunday, everyone had to get ready to clean up and go home. Breakfast was served and afterwards there was a food auction. (What do you do with all that food???) Food was sold at bidding prices. Before we knew it, it was almost time for lunch. After lunch, we had to leave and head for home. Many deaf-blind people expressed their wish to stay for one week. That shows how much everyone enjoyed their camping excursion at Lake MacGregor.

Special credit goes to the Lions Club for all their support and help, and also to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the camping trip a successful event. There are talks about setting up another camping trip for next year. The Lions Club expressed their interest in doing it again. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

It was a learning experience for many Lions Club members as some of them had never worked with deaf-blind persons before. It was a wonderful experience for all of us!

Letter to AADB Members

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Janie Steele is a diagnostic teacher at the Georgia School for the Deaf. She is a member of the AADB, and attended our recent convention. She herself has Usher's Syndrome, and is becoming more and more interested in helping deaf-blind people. This questionnaire gives deaf-blind people an excellent chance to be heard on issues concerning deaf-blind people. We encourage readers to write to Janie to help in her research.)

Dear Friend,

As you know, the Education Section of NAD was established some time ago, and I have been voted to serve a four-year term as a board member of this Section for the Region III area.

I am making an effort to include some issues essential to the education of deaf-blind and hearing-visually impaired children and adults. I would appreciate it greatly if you could provide me with your feedback on the following questions so that I may write a position paper that would effectively reflect the NAD's stand on issues in regards to the education of deaf-blind and hearing-visually impaired.

1. Which do you think is the primary handicap, deafness or visual impairment, among deaf-blind children? Why?
2. Should those children be placed in a program with blind hearing children or deaf children? Why?
3. What problems do you feel do not get enough attention from professionals in the area of education?
4. What problems do you feel do not get enough attention from the NAD?
5. Which program would you consider to be the least restrictive environment for these children?
 - a. A residential school for the deaf.
 - b. A residential school for the blind.
 - c. A public school.
 - d. A day school program for deaf children.
 - e. Other(s): -----
6. Please list any other issues on deaf-blind education that you feel the Education Section of the NAD should write in the position statements.

Any information or suggestions would be greatly appreciated, as I feel that we as a group with hearing and visual impairments should speak up so that other people will become more aware of our problems.

I would appreciate it greatly if you would send your feedback to me as soon as possible.

Janie N. Steele

P.O. Box 104

Cave Spring, GA 30124

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Janie N. Steele

1981 AADB Convention

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

Our Sixth Annual AADB Convention was held June 20-27, 1981, at Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C. A whopping 400 persons, including 150 deaf-blind participants, took part in the week long activities.

Everyone enjoyed the splendid recreational activities arranged for us, including a tour of the White House, a boat

trip to Mt. Vernon, and visits to the National Air and Space Museum and many other famous sites in our Nation's Capitol. In addition, evening activities such as parties, drama and our traditional banquet made for a very lively, fun filled week.

1981 was an election year for the AADB, and our new Board of Directors was elected just before the convention closed. Our new board members are as follows: President: Rod Macdonald, First Vice-President, Bob Smithdas; Second Vice-President, Henry Buzzard; Treasurer, Martin Greenberg; Secretary, Steve Barrett. Board Members are: Austin Berkey, Steve Ehrlich, Delores Follette, Klara Johnson, Bob Miller, Art Roehrig, Nancy Rosenwaig, Michelle Smithdas, Elaine Van Duser and Charlotte Whitacre.

A complete report will appear in the September issue of "THE VOICE".



1981

International Year of Disabled Persons

"THE VOICE"

RODERICK J. MACDONALD, EDITOR
1910-E BARRYMORE COMMON
FREMONT, CALIFORNIA 94538

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OF THE

American Association of the Deaf-Blind

Editor

RODERICK J. MACDONALD

1910-E BARRYMORE COMMON

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PLEASE WRITE TO ANY OFFICER OR MEMBER OF THE BOARD WITH YOUR CONCERNS.
DUES, DONATIONS AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE AADB
TREASURER, MARTIN GREENBERG.

SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR THE VOICE TO THE EDITOR, NANCY ROSEN.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE

EDITORIAL	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	1
CONVENTION REPORT: THE BIGGEST & BEST YET!	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	4
CONVENTION STATISTICS	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	19
AADB TREASURER'S REPORT	
By Michelle J. Smithdas.....	22
EDITOR'S REPORT	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	27
A LETTER TO CONGRESS.....	30
ASSOCIABLES TO HELP WITH 1982 CONVENTION	
By Nancy Rosen.....	33
CONVENTION TO STRESS INDEPENDENT LIVING	
By Nancy Rosen.....	34
DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE AND POLITICAL ACTION	
By McCay Vernon, Ph.D.....	35
CORRESPONDENCE, ANYONE?	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	45
NEW PUBLICATION.....	46

EDITORIAL

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

As many of you know by now, I was elected President of the AADB at our recent convention. The new responsibilities of this office will make it very difficult for me to continue as Editor of this magazine. It is therefore with a mixture of regret and pleasure that I announce my resignation as Editor, and the appointment of Nancy Rosen as the new Editor. Nancy will be serving as Editor on a trial basis, but we are all hopeful that she will take the job permanently. I will be helping her as Assistant Editor until after our 1982 convention, since Nancy, as co-chairperson of the Convention Planning Committee, will be very busy with other duties until that time.

We are very sorry to report the death of one of our good friends,

Mr. Edward Spahr, who passed away in early August. Edward had been with us at our recent convention, but became ill upon his return home to Ohio, and passed away several weeks later.

On a somewhat happier note, we are delighted to report the marriage of Greg McCaffrey and Eileen Sullivan on August 15 in Sacramento, California. Both Greg and Eileen were very active volunteers at our recent convention, and a measure of their devotion to helping deaf-blind people can be seen from the fact that they hustled home from a short honeymoon to attend the annual camp for deaf-blind people in Napa, California. Our warmest congratulations to the newlyweds!

If all goes well, this issue of THE VOICE will be the first actually printed during the month for which it is dated. Once again, my sincere apology to readers for not catching up with the

magazine sooner. We are determined to get the magazine out during the month for which it is dated, however, and once we get there, we hope to stay there.

Since this issue is a rather full one, with news of our convention, I am leaving out the usual column profiling a deaf-blind person. I plan to submit material for this column to our new editor for the next issue, however.

In the June issue, I asked for your response to the controversy surrounding the policy adopted by USAir. I have received a number of letters on this matter, but since the Braille edition of the June issue will not have reached readers until September, I will wait until everyone has had a chance to respond before commenting further. I hope to address this question again in the December issue.

Although I will no longer be serving as Editor of this magazine, I do hope

you will continue writing to me to share your ideas or complaints. The addresses of all new officers and board members will appear in this issue, and we all hope you will write to us about your concerns.

CONVENTION REPORT:
THE BIGGEST & BEST YET!

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

To say that our Sixth Open Convention was a success would be a very big understatement. The best word to describe it would be "WOW"!. One hundred and fifty-eight deaf-blind participants, accompanied by two hundred and sixty-nine volunteers, more than doubled the attendance at any of our previous conventions. And mere numbers do not tell the true story, for the accommodations offered by Gallaudet College were truly great, and the tours and other activities that were so much a part of our convention were also the best yet.

One of the very first things we became aware of was that Art Roehrig and his able assistants on the Convention Planning Committee had done a truly outstanding job in planning this year's convention. Just before the convention began, Art and his associates conducted a two-day workshop for volunteers, to help them learn about deaf-blindness and how to assist us during the convention week. This was no easy task, for there were nearly three hundred volunteers, and many of them had never had first-hand contact with deaf-blind people.

The convention week began on Saturday, June 20, when most of us arrived at Gallaudet. We were ushered to very nice, air-conditioned rooms. Most of us had two-bedroom suites which we shared with other participants. When we registered upon arrival, we found packets of useful information waiting for us. There were

even large-print and Braille maps of the Gallaudet College campus! The only disappointment was that we did not have a list of convention participants in Braille, so that it was difficult for us to know who was there. This made it difficult for us to find old friends. However, many of the volunteers did have print copies of the list of participants, and this was a big help.

Saturday evening, we had a great "get-acquainted" party, with lots of goodies to eat and drink. For many of us, this was the time to meet friends we had not seen since last year's convention and to make new friends. The excellent wine and cheese served were so good that many of us wished we had not eaten quite so much at dinnertime!

On Sunday morning, many of us attended church services conducted at Hotchkiss Field, the Gallaudet College football field. The afternoon was

devoted to tours of the Gallaudet campus, which gave us lots of time to learn about our surroundings and to meet old and new friends in a very relaxed atmosphere.

On Sunday evening, while most of us were partying elsewhere on campus, our Board of Directors held its first meeting. Plans for the convention were discussed at this meeting, and the agenda for our business meetings was adopted. Also at this meeting, a three-member Election Committee was selected. This committee, consisting of Kathleen Spear, Charlene Rios and Larry Johnson, was given the responsibility of conducting our election at this convention. Kathleen Spear, who had earlier announced her candidacy for a position on the Board, withdrew her candidacy in order to take the Election Committee Chairpersonship.

On Monday morning, our first general business meeting was held. The proceedings began with welcoming remarks from Art Roehrig, Convention Coordinator; Dennis Schreiber, AADB President; and Bob Smithdas

representing the Helen Keller National Center. In delivering his brief remarks, Bob mentioned that Jack Murphey had fallen and broken his hip, and would appreciate letters and cards from his many deaf-blind friends. Regrets were also expressed on behalf of Bob Miller and Helen Guldin, both of whom were unable to attend the convention for medical reasons.

Dennis Schreiber presented a check for \$1,000 to Art Roehrig on behalf of the AADB, to help with the costs of hosting the convention.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the suggested by-laws proposed by Steve Ehrlich, Chairperson of the By-laws committee. Later in the week, print and Braille copies of the proposed by-laws were distributed.

On Monday afternoon, we all boarded a boat for a cruise down the Potomac River to historic Mount Vernon, home of George Washington, first President of the United States. Although the house itself was closed for repairs, we had a wonderful opportunity to explore the grounds and see the beautiful gardens. Before returning to Gallaudet, we had a chance to see George Washington's final resting place,

and seeing the beautiful place that was his home, it was easy to see why he insisted on being buried here.

Monday evening our officers and board members again missed the fun we had at a "Bingo-Banana Split" party, since our leaders were busy taking care of important matters at another board meeting. The party was lots of fun, especially for those who won prizes! Everyone enjoyed these delicious banana splits, too.

At the Board meeting, Harry Anderson made a special presentation on the subject of the Federal Government's proposal that Rehabilitation, Education and other forms of Federal assistance to handicapped people be lumped into "block grants." These block grants would be given to the states, and many services would be cut back. The board approved a committee consisting of Dennis Schreiber, Bob Smithdas, Rod Macdonald, Harry Anderson and Larry Johnson to draft a position paper and develop plans to go to Capitol Hill to present the AADB's position to members of Congress. (A copy of this position paper will be found elsewhere in this issue of THE VOICE.) Further discussions were also held on our election procedures.

On Tuesday morning, our second general business session got underway with a very interesting presentation by Mr. Albert Pimentel, Executive Director of the National Association of the Deaf. Mr. Pimentel discussed the goals and purposes of the NAD, how it functions and what services it provides in the field of deafness.

During the actual business meeting, discussions were held on the draft by-laws proposed by Steve Ehrlich. A copy of these proposed by-laws, both large-print and Braille, was distributed later in the week. Also discussed was the establishment of a Steering Committee, which would have four sub-committees: Election sub-committee, Resolutions Sub-Committee, Finance Sub-Committee, and Ways-and-Means Sub-Committee. Although establishment of this committee was discussed and approved, it could not be established because of the lack of time remaining in the week, but it provided useful background for the possibility of establishing such a committee next year. Also discussed was the proposal to send a group of members to Capitol Hill to discuss our concerns with members of Congress, and this idea was adopted.

On Tuesday afternoon, we had a choice of two tours - one to Arlington National Cemetery and the other to the National Cathedral. Those of us who went to the Cemetery were able to walk around the beautifully landscaped grounds and visit the resting places of many famous Americans, including John F. Kennedy and the "Unknown Soldier."

Many of us, however, chose to visit the National Cathedral. On the main floor we were able to see carved tombs of President Woodrow Wilson and Norman Prince, a World War II hero. But, of course, our biggest thrill came when we went to the basement of the Cathedral to see the final resting place of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan Macy. Both were cremated, and their ashes are in two urns on a shelf behind protective fencing. We were also able to see Helen's desk and prayer stool. There were also many statues that we were able to feel, including one of Helen Keller.

On Tuesday evening, for the third straight night, our leaders missed out on lots of fun by having to attend another board meeting. The rest of us were treated to an excellent puppet show, "THE KIDS ON

THE BLOCK," where we were able to touch the large puppets with their interesting costumes. After this, we watched the Gallaudet Dancers perform, and as they danced they told us in sign language the meaning of what they were doing. It was a most enjoyable show!

At the board meeting, the final arrangements for our election were worked out. It was decided to accept further nominations from the floor during our remaining general meetings, with the election itself re-scheduled for Friday.

Wednesday morning's activities got underway with a most informative presentation from Mr. Reese Robrahm, Executive Director of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. ACCD has more than one hundred member organizations and represents millions of disabled persons by lobbying in Washington and elsewhere to improve the lives of disabled persons. Mr. Robrahm discussed the history of special legislation pertaining to disabled persons, and outlined what the Reagan Administration has planned in this area; he indicated that all disabled persons must work together to help save the programs and services, as well as the civil

rights, that have been established through legislation in recent years. The possibility of AADB becoming a member organization of ACCD was discussed, and Mr. Robrahm promised to send us further information on membership.

At the business meeting, a presentation was made by Harry Anderson regarding sending a group of members to Capitol Hill to meet with Congressmen later in the day and also Thursday and Friday afternoons. This proposal was passed. The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the election procedures.

On Wednesday afternoon, and again on Thursday afternoon, we were able to see exhibits set up by various organizations and companies providing aids and services of especial interest to deaf-blind people. Wednesday afternoon was otherwise free, and offered a welcome time for relaxing and chatting with friends.

On Wednesday evening we had a special general meeting that dealt exclusively with our election. At this meeting we learned that Karen Jernigan, who had previously announced her candidacy for a position on the Board, had withdrawn her candidacy. In addition to Dennis Schreiber

and Rod Macdonald, who had announced their candidacy for the office of President and been duly nominated some time earlier, Linda Annala was nominated and accepted the nomination as a third candidate for President. Then, in addition to Bob Smithdas, Dick Bell was nominated as a candidate for First Vice-President, and accepted the nomination. Finally, Henry Buzzard and Isaac Obie were nominated as candidates for the office of Second Vice-President, and both accepted. In accepting the nomination as a candidate for this office, Henry Buzzard withdrew his previous candidacy for a position on the Board.

On Thursday morning, we were treated to an excellent presentation by Dr. McCay Vernon, Professor of Psychology at Western Maryland College. Dr. Vernon's presentation will appear elsewhere in this issue of THE VOICE.

During our business meeting, discussions continued on the subject of our election. No further candidates were added to the list.

On Thursday afternoon, we had a grand total of six tours to choose from! These included tours of the Hirshorn Sculpture

Garden, the Insect Zoo, the Museum of Natural History, the National Air and Space Museum, the Museum of History and Technology, and the Naturalist Center. All of these places are part of the Smithsonian Institute, and it was impossible for us to see them all, so much was there to see. Some of us, though, managed to see more than one. Of special interest to many were the National Air and Space Museum and the Museum of Natural History. In the former, we were able to see many exciting things, including rockets that had actually been in space, and a rock brought back from the moon. At the Museum of Natural History the big attraction was the "Discovery Room" - a special exhibit set aside for blind people, where we could touch stuffed animals that were identified in Braille.

On Thursday evening, our annual banquet was held. We were treated to a delicious dinner and much fun. After the meal, we heard an interesting speech by Ms. Susan Flowers, Director of the Community Partnership Program of the U.S. Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons. Ms. Flowers presented the AADB with a special certificate, recognizing our organization as a National Partner.

The certificate read as follows:

U.S. COUNCIL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS
RECOGNIZES AND COMMENDS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND
AS AN IYDP NATIONAL PARTNER
DURING THIS YEAR IN WHICH WE UNITE
TO DEVELOP FULL PARTICIPATION OF
DISABLED CITIZENS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

David T. Kearns, Chairperson

Alan A. Reich, President

On Friday we heard two most interesting presentations. The first, from Mr. Durwood McDaniel, National Representative of the American Council of the Blind, discussed the ACB's goals and purposes. ACB has three offices--in Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, and New York City. It publishes a free monthly magazine, THE BRAILLE FORUM, which is available in Braille and large-print.

The second presentation was made jointly by Nancy Rosen and Charlene Rios, Co-Chairpersons of the 1982 AADB Convention Planning Committee. Plans are to hold the convention in Greeley, Colorado, August 22-29. More information on this event will appear elsewhere in this issue and in

coming issues of THE VOICE.

Because of the two presentations, our business meeting was short. Final arrangements for the election were agreed upon. It was decided that we would accept no further nominations, and since there were ten remaining candidates for the ten board positions, and since Martin Greenberg was the only candidate for Treasurer and Steve Barrett the only candidate for Secretary, it was decided that these 12 candidates would not appear on the ballot and would be considered as having been elected. The ten new board members are: Austin Berkey, Steve Ehrlich, Delores Follette, Klara Johnson, Bob Miller, Art Roehrig, Nancy Rosen, Michelle Smithdas, Elaine Van Duser and Charlotte Whitacre. A full list of all new officers and board members will appear elsewhere in this issue.

For many of us, the most exciting tour of all came on Friday afternoon, when 7 big buses took us to visit the White House. We were able to see several very interesting rooms - the Green Room, the Blue Room and the Red Room, and also the State Dining Room where all the state dinners are held. And one of the big

surprises was that some of the Secret Service staff at the White House could communicate with us in sign language!

After the tour, we all trooped to the Gallaudet Cafeteria to cast our votes in the 1981 AADB election. After that, we all went to Faculty Row on campus for a splendid cookout that lasted until dark. The announcement of the election results were to be made at the picnic, but it took too long to count all those ballots, and be absolutely sure the count was right. As the evening wore on, the excitement grew - "Who won???" A little after ten o'clock that night, after some of us had gone off to bed but most of us were waiting for the news in the Rathskeller, Art Roehrig came to make the announcement. He announced that Henry Buzzard had been elected Second Vice-President; Bob Smithdas as First Vice-President; and Rod Macdonald as President. The rest of the evening was spent happily congratulating our new leaders and saying farewell--until next year--to our many friends.

Saturday was the day of departure and last-minute goodbyes to friends. It had been a wonderful week! We are all

grateful to Art Roehrig for the terrific job he did in making our participation possible and such a memorable experience. We also wish to thank Gallaudet College, the Helen Keller National Center, and the many others who contributed toward making this the biggest and best convention yet.

CONVENTION STATISTICS

By
Roderick J. Macdonald

As reported in the March issue of THE VOICE, a total of 205 participants and volunteers registered at the 1980 AADB convention in Watertown. This year, our convention in Washington, D.C. more than doubled the "official" participation list, with a total of 427 people taking part. This included 158 deaf-blind participants and 269 volunteers.

Last year, Massachusetts, New York, California and Michigan ranked 1-2-3-4 in providing the most people. This year the top four were California, New York, Maryland, and Ohio, in that order. California--despite being 3,000 miles from the convention site--provided the

most deaf-blind participants, the most volunteers, and the largest total, with 54 people from that state taking part.

A total of 39 states, including the District of Columbia, Canada and India, were represented, with fifteen states providing at least ten people each.

The following table is a breakdown of convention participation over the past two years:

	<u>1980 CONVENTION</u>			<u>1981 CONVENTION</u>			
	PAR.	VOL.	TOTAL	PAR.	VOL.	TOTAL	TOTAL
Calif.	10	10	20	18	36	54	74
N.Y.	20	8	28	12	29	41	69
Mass.	13	18	31	7	8	15	46
Maryland	2	2	4	5	32	37	41
Mich.	9	4	13	11	14	25	38
Ohio	5	5	10	11	17	28	38
Illinois	7	4	11	6	16	22	33
Texas	6	6	12	3	11	14	26
N.J.	1	2	3	9	12	21	24
Louis.	6	2	8	8	7	15	23
Minn.	5	3	8	7	8	15	23
Canada	6	5	11	4	5	9	20
Penn.	1	1	2	7	10	17	19
Florida	2	0	2	6	10	16	18
Virginia	0	0	0	7	7	14	14
Colorado	4	2	6	4	3	7	13
Wash. DC	0	2	2	3	8	11	13

	<u>1980 CONVENTION</u>			<u>1981 CONVENTION</u>			TOTAL
	PAR.	VOL.	TOTAL	PAR.	VOL.	TOTAL	
Tenn.	3	1	4	3	3	6	10
Indiana	3	0	3	4	1	5	8
Wisc.	2	2	4	2	2	4	8
Conn.	2	1	3	3	1	4	7
Kansas	4	0	4	3	0	3	7
N. Car.	1	0	1	1	5	6	7
Wash.	1	0	1	3	3	6	7
Georgia	0	1	1	2	3	5	6
Missouri	1	1	2	1	3	4	6
N. Mex.	1	2	3	2	1	3	6
Utah	2	1	3	1	2	3	6
Ark.	0	1	1	3	1	4	5
Iowa	2	0	2	0	2	2	4
Rhode I.	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Nevada	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
W. Virg.	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
Alabama	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
India	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Kentucky	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Oregon	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Vermont	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	<u>1980 CONVENTION</u>			<u>1981 CONVENTION</u>			
	PAR.	VOL.	TOTAL	PAR.	VOL.	TOTAL	TOTAL
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miss.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Hamp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S. Car.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S. Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>121</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>427</u>	<u>632</u>

AADB TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 1980 to June 15, 1981

By

Michelle J. Smithdas, Past Treasurer

The total membership of the AADB, as of June 15, 1981, is 210. Of this total, 84 are active members, and 126 are associate members. Of the 84 active members, 40 are not up-to-date with dues.

At the convention in June, 1980, a professional division was established under the chairmanship of Arthur Roehrig and Helen Guldin. Only one member,

Janet Ehrlich, paid \$10 in dues for this division. Because there has been no action for this division, it is recommended that the \$10 should be returned to Janet Ehrlich.

The final balance in the AADB treasury as of December 31, 1980, was \$4,150.94. The following deposits and disbursements have been made during the current year:

- 1-2-81 - deposit \$85.00
- 1-14-81 - disbursement to R. Macdonald for printing costs for THE VOICE, \$275.43.
- 2-6-81 - disbursement to Secretary of State of Illinois, \$5.00.
- 3-24-81 - deposit \$245.00.
- 3-18-81 - disbursement to Cook County, Illinois, Recorder of Deeds, \$22.40.
- 4-29-81 - disbursement to Volunteer Services for the Blind, printing costs of the Braille edition of THE VOICE, \$300.00.
- 4-29-81 - disbursement to R. Macdonald for printing costs for THE VOICE, \$294.58.
- 6-15-81 - deposit \$272.00.

One check for \$5.00 was returned to the Treasurer as unacceptable, and the

AADB checking account was debited for
\$8.65, plus the amount of the check: \$13.65.

TOTAL DEPOSITS, as of 6-15-81: \$517.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS, as of 6-15-81: \$911.06.

FINAL BALANCE in the AADB treasury, as of
6-15-81: \$3,756.88.

At the last convention of the AADB
in June, 1980, held at Perkins School for
the Blind, 40 pledges were made. As of
June 15, 1981, 28 and 1/2 of these pledges
were paid. The total amount of paid
pledges is \$1,010. As of June 15, 1981,
11 and 1/2 pledges have not been paid.
These are the pledgees who have not paid:

Adas, Casimir: \$10.00

Autrey, Dan and Launa: \$50.00

Dalton, James: \$10.00

Holcomb, Kathleen: \$100.00

McBride, Don: \$50.00

McCollum, Jill: \$10.00

Moore, Susan: \$25.00

Ohio Deaf-Blind Association: \$50.00 (half)

Pence, Alvin and Rita: \$25.00

Philbrick, John: \$100.00

Sborofsky, Sandra: \$10.00

Dildy, Dennis, for the Texas Delegation:
\$150.00

Total amount of unpaid pledges: \$590.00
 If all pledges are paid, the final total
 would be \$2,600.00.

AADB PLEDGES - JUNE, 1980

<u>PLEDGED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAID</u>
10.	Adas, Casey	20. - 6/80
20.	Agardy, Sophie	12.50 - 8/80
25.	Allen, Agnes	12.50 - 10/80
50.	Annala, Linda	50. - 6/80
50.	Autrey, Dan & Launa	
10.	Bell, Dick & Joan	10. - 6/80
10.	Boyer, John	10. - 5/81
15.	Branigan, Gilbert	15. - 6/81
50.	Buzzard, Henry	50. - 10/80
	(for Usher's Syndrome Group)	
50.	Collins, Eleanor	50. - 6/80
10.	Correa, Roberta	10. - 6/80
10.	Dalton, Jim	
50.	Dowdy, Elizabeth	50. - 6/80
25.	Follette, Delores	25. - 6/80
10.	Fuhrman, Debra	10. - 6/80
10.	Gribbs, Helen	10. - 6/80
50.	Haviland, Aslaug	50. - 6/80
100.	Holcomb, Kathleen	
10.	Hoskins, Lewis	10. - 2/81
40.	Joy, Rick	40. - 6/80
50.	McBride, Don	

<u>PLEDGED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAID</u>
50.	Macdonald, Ele & Rod	50. - 6/80
10.	McCollum, Jill	
10.	Merrill, William	10. - 6/80
25.	Moore, Susan	
100.	Northern California Association of Deaf-Blind	100. - 7/80
100.	Ohio Deaf-Blind Club	50. - 2/81
25.	Pence, Alvin	
100.	Philbrick, John	
50.	Reade, Elsie	50. - 6/80
1000.	Schreiber, Dennis (for Midwestern Delegation)	1000. - 6/80
50.	Schweihs, William	50. - 8/80
50.	Simons, Edith	50. - 8/80
10.	Sborofsky, Sandra	
50.	Spear, Kathleen	50. - 6/80
150.	Dildy, Dennis (for Texas Delegation)	
5.	Thivierge, Eugene	5. - 6/80
60.	Underdahl, Gerald	60. - 6/80
50.	Wasilewski, Daniel	50. - 6/80
50.	Whitaker, Charlotte	50. - 10/80

TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED - \$2,600.00

TOTAL AMOUNT IN PLEDGES PAID - \$2,010.00

as of 6/15/81

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS - 1980-81

American Foundation for the Blind - \$250.00
for THE VOICE

Mildred Broman - \$15.00

Elizabeth Dowdy - \$15.00

Abe Gullish - \$5.00 for THE VOICE

E.A. Gwilliam - \$20.00

Russell Ingamells - \$15.00 for THE VOICE

Klara Johnson - \$5.00 for THE VOICE

Frances Mannino - \$20.00 for THE VOICE

Sonia Sabath - \$10.00 for THE VOICE

John Waring - \$20.00

Carol Wolford - \$70.00

Xavier Society for the Blind - \$100.00

EDITOR'S REPORT

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

At our recent convention at Gallaudet College, we had a very full and busy schedule. So busy were we, in fact, that much of the business on our agenda was left unfinished. One such item of unfinished business was my annual report as Editor of THE VOICE. Since we have a pretty full issue this time, I will keep my report short.

As you know, I became Editor of our magazine at the time of our 1980 convention at the Perkins School for the Blind. Much to my disappointment, I found I had to start "from scratch", for there were no records for me to use as a starting point. Nor was there a mailing list, or list of who wanted Braille and who wanted large-print. Since I had been a member of our organization for just over a year at the time I became Editor, I had never even seen a single issue of THE VOICE, and none were in the records for me to read.

Slowly, however, we were able to get things started. Dennis Schreiber and Dennis Dildy sent me addresses of the people who attended our 1980 convention, and Michelle Smithdas sent me the addresses of members who had paid their dues. Bob Smithdas was able to provide a great deal of help in determining who wanted Braille. With this help, we were able to have the December issue out in Braille.

Since then our magazine's mailing list has grown rapidly. The June issue was produced with 350 large-print copies and 140 Braille copies, and by the time this issue is out, we should have a total mailing list of about 600.

In producing this magazine, I have tried to avoid any item of criticism of others. I have tried to make it a magazine you would enjoy reading--something informative, interesting and uniquely representative of deaf-blind people. Afterall, this is OUR magazine and OUR organization.

I am very grateful to the many people who sent me material for the magazine. I was not able to publish everything, but I am nonetheless grateful to all who submitted material--it means you care, and that caring made the work a pleasure. I am also very grateful to the many, many people who wrote to me to express ideas, make suggestions and share their feelings about THE VOICE--I made many new friends that way as well as learned a lot about how you feel and what you want.

And this issue will be my last as Editor. Nancy Rosen, a member of our Board of Directors, has agreed to act as Editor of our magazine on a trial basis, since I cannot handle the jobs of Editor and President at the same time. Nancy is an experienced and capable writer, and I hope you will welcome her as warmly as

you welcomed me last year. Since Nancy also has a very heavy workload as Co-Chairperson of our 1982 Convention Committee, she is taking on this job as Editor on a trial basis, and I have agreed to help out as much as possible. I hope each of you will also help by sending Nancy material for the magazine and sharing your ideas and suggestions with her. Nancy has asked that all material sent to her be in print if possible. If you feel more comfortable with Braille, she asks that you use as few contractions as possible as she is still improving her skills in Braille.

I hope you will continue to write to me also. Your ideas, your suggestions and --yes--your criticisms are very important to me, for as your President, I need to know what you want, and your letters have helped me learn and grow as a person as well as helped me know what course of action to take.

Once again, thank you for your support.

A LETTER TO CONGRESS

(Editor's note: The following was drafted at our recent convention and approved by the participants. It presents the AADB's

policy in regard to the Government's proposal to provide block grants to the states and transfer responsibility for programs serving the handicapped to the states.

This letter is the AADB's response to that proposal.)

Dear Congressman:

In convention assembled at Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C., June 20th to 27th 1981, the American Association of the Deaf-Blind, a national organization of deaf-blind consumers and their concerned supporters and friends, hereby adopted the following policy statement to be transmitted to members of the United States Congress.

Until very recently Deaf-Blind Adults received little or no education, rehabilitation services, or training; they were very often ignored, neglected, and isolated, and frequently considered untrainable. Since the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the establishment of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults and other regional and local community based independent

living services programs there has been important progress in the provision of education and training for deaf-blind persons.

The economic significance of these programs is that they have provided the opportunity for thousands of deaf-blind and other severely handicapped citizens to get off the welfare roles and become active and contributing participants in our society, transferring them from a life of economic dependence to a life of economic independence; thus making them taxpayers instead of tax users.

The Administration's proposal to block grant rehabilitation services with funding cuts and repeal of the Rehabilitation Act, except for Title 5 thereof, will have a profoundly devastating impact on the lives of deaf-blind citizens of this country. The Rehabilitation Act now requires that priority be given to the serving of severely handicapped persons. If this provision is repealed there is no doubt that Deaf-Blind persons will receive little or no rehabilitation services.

Whatever progress that has been achieved in the education, rehabilitation, and training of deaf-blind people during

recent years would be reversed and severely disabled people would be denied opportunity for self-expression and self-reliance--a tremendous step backward into the past.

The AADB therefore expresses hereby its vehement opposition to the proposed block granting of rehabilitation services; and further, the AADB urges the Congress restore the funding level for all community based independent living services programs affecting deaf-blind citizens, to that provided for Fiscal Year 1982 before rescission; and that the appropriations figure be reflected in a line item in the appropriations measure.

Adopted unanimously by the members of the AADB, in convention assembled, this 24th day 1981.

ASSOCIABLES TO HELP WITH 1982 CONVENTION

By

Nancy Rosen,

Denver Commission on the Disabled

The Associables, a social group of deaf-blind adults in Denver, Colorado, have incorporated in Colorado as the Colorado Council of the Deaf-Blind (CCDB). This action has allowed the CCDB to be-

come an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind of Colorado. Both groups will be working together on fundraising and other activities for the AADB Convention to be held August 22-29, 1982, in Greeley, Colorado.

CONVENTION TO STRESS INDEPENDENT LIVING

By
Nancy Rosen

Independent Living for the deaf-blind will be a primary theme of the up-coming AADB convention in Greeley. Tentative plans call for speakers, workshops and displays of technical aids and other devices for deaf-blind people. The goal of these programs will be to give practical information to AADB members on how deaf-blind people can achieve independence in education, employment, recreation and home living. Comments on what you would like to see included in these programs will be greatly appreciated.

Another possibility for the convention will be an arts and craft show by AADB members. We would like to know how AADB members feel about this. Would you like to take part in such a show as a

participant or judge? Any type of art or craft might be included as long as it can easily be brought to the convention by the delegate who made it. We might include poetry, photography, weaving, macrame and other crafts.

You can write to me in print or simple Braille without contractions. Letters should be addressed to my home address as follows:

Nancy Rosen
1805 Irving Street
Denver, CO 80204

DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE AND POLITICAL ACTION

By

McCay Vernon, Ph.D.
Western Maryland College

No one group of individuals is more deserving of high quality government services than those who are deaf-blind. For example, deaf-blind people need improved vocational rehabilitation, more available interpreting, improved housing options, better work and recreational opportunities. Yet deaf-blind people get very few government services and what they get is often

of poor quality. Why? Before answering this question let us look at what other groups of disabled people get.

Deaf people have had a Gallaudet College for over 100 years. There was absolutely no similar quality institution for deaf-blind people until the Helen Keller National Center was built in 1970. Whereas Helen Keller can serve only 50 residential clients in its Center, Gallaudet, NTID, CSUN, and other post secondary programs can serve thousands of deaf students.

Another handicapped group. blind people, also get much more than deaf-blind people. They have their own separate vocational rehabilitation services, there are homes for the blind, and there are special jobs such as vending stand operation for them.

All of us are glad that deaf, blind, and other handicapped groups get good government services. What is wrong is that deaf-blind people get so little. No

other group with such significant needs is treated with such poor government support. Why? Why is so little provided for those who are deaf-blind?

The reason is that deaf-blind people and we who are involved with them professionally have done a poor job politically. We have not lobbied, we have not gone to Congress, and we have not become visible on television and in the newspapers. Obviously, it is extremely difficult for a deaf-blind person to approach his senator or congressman, but it has to be done. Until deaf-blind people become politically active, they will continue to get little or nothing from the government in terms of services.

SOLUTION

Program

The first step toward getting services is to decide what deaf-blind people want and need and to state these needs in clear specific terms. In other words, the first step is to have a clear cut program to support.

In 1978, the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation brought together a group of deaf-blind people including Linda Annala, Harry Anderson and the families of

several deaf-blind youth and asked this group to develop a program. The ten point program below was developed:

1. Centralization of services for deaf-blind people at the Federal level.

Currently the deaf, the blind, the mentally retarded, etc., each have separate divisions in the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to assure them services. The deaf-blind fall between the cracks in that neither of these divisions understands or is set up to meet their needs. The Bureau of Education of the Handicapped has recognized this and has provided separate services for deaf-blind children. A corresponding office is needed in RSA for deaf-blind adults.

2. Interpreting Services.

Without some access to tactile sign language interpreting services, deaf-blind people are almost totally isolated, unable to communicate with their doctor, family, congressman or service agency.

3. Training of rehabilitation and educational specialist in Deaf-Blind.

Currently, there is adequate provi-

sion for training teachers, but no provision for preparing professionals to serve deaf-blind adults. Many of those currently employed cannot even sign to their deaf-blind clients.

4. The provision of four regional residential living facilities in the United States each serving one hundred deaf-blind people of 70 IQ or above and maintaining sheltered workshop.

This would centralize services in an effective meaningful way. In addition to lower cost the program would be more productive than the multitude of disjointed services and agencies which now have to be mobilized (and usually are not) if the deaf-blind person is to receive help. It is only when deaf-blind people are brought together that they have other people who can and will communicate with them in the tactile sign language they need.

5. Service for deaf-blind people of below 70 IQ.

A Federal reimbursement of twice the

current per capita cost for a regular hospitalized retarded person should be provided each state that makes special provisions within their hospital system for the mentally retarded. (These provisions include a separate unit or ward for the deaf-blind with staff who can communicate in tactile sign language.)

6. Change the criteria for rehabilitation services.

The leading cause of deaf-blindness in adults, Ushers Syndrome, involves congenital deafness and a progressive blindness due to retinitis pigmentosa. Often the client with this disease must wait until legally blind to receive services. In too many cases, training and other preparatory services could be much more effectively rendered while the person still had some sight.

7. Provision of improved tactile-vibratory devices and Telecommunications.

The deaf-blind person often perishes in fires or assaults due to a lack of warning devices to which he can respond. Even more problems arise due

to the lack of any kind of substitute mechanism for the telephone.

8. Self-help groups for parents and family of deaf-blind people and for deaf-blind people themselves.

For the individual who suddenly finds himself deaf-blind and for the families of these persons there is tremendous need for counseling and general help in coping.

9. Improved public awareness and education.

Until the general public becomes aware of deaf-blindness little will be done for these people. For example, many will remain in attics and back wards or mental hospitals, unknown to the agencies that could help them.

10. Genetic counseling and screening.

At the prevention level, the early identification and appropriate genetic counseling of affected individuals and their families can reduce the prevalence of deaf-blindness.

A copy of the above ten point program should be available to all deaf-blind

persons in order that they may use it in political lobbying and in dealing with newspapers and television.

Implementation of the Program Politically

Several steps are suggested for implementing this ten point program. The first is to make the American Association of Deaf-Blind strong. Nobody cares more about deaf-blind people than those who are deaf-blind. Nobody knows more about the needs of deaf-blind people than those who are deaf-blind. This organization should adopt the ten point program or one of its own choice and then promote it.

The second step would be for as many deaf-blind persons as possible to go to see their congressman or senator with an interpreter and present them with the ten point program. The purpose would be to ask them to support it. Even if most deaf-blind people are unable to visit their legislator, at least the officers of this organization can see the heads of the key committees of Congress which control money that should go to provide deaf-blind people services. Perhaps this could be arranged through the offices of Mr. Art Roehrig at Gallaudet College.

A third step is to get the support of other key groups and organizations for the ten point program. Examples of some of these organizations are:

A. Helen Keller National Center - the new Director, Mr. Martin Adler, is a smart capable politician. He and his Center can help support the passage of legislation the American Association of Deaf-Blind can help the Helen Keller Center.

B. National Association of the Deaf (NAD) - the NAD has a special person, Mr. Jack Duncan, whose job is to help get legislation to benefit deaf people. Many deaf-blind people are also members of the NAD. The NAD and Mr. Pimentel, its Executive Director, who is a long time friend of deaf-blind people, can be of great help in getting better services for deaf-blind people.

Other Organizations - There are many other groups such as the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation, the American Council of the Blind, the American Federation of the Blind, the American Foundation of the Blind, and the National Fraternal Society of Deaf, all of great value as allies in seeking better services.

SUMMARY

Deaf-Blind people get very poor services compared to other handicapped groups, yet they have the greatest need and deserve the best services of all. The American Association of the Deaf-Blind must start now to bring about significant lasting improvements in this situation. This requires first that we either develop a program to meet deaf-blind people's needs or else that we adopt that program already developed by Linda Annala, Harry Anderson and others in Boston three years ago.

Secondly, we must become politically active by establishing contact with Congress and by continuing this contact in the future, perhaps through Mr. Roehrig's Gallaudet Office here in Washington. Finally, we must establish working political relationships with other organizations such as the Helen Keller Center, the National Association of the Deaf, and the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation.

CORRESPONDENCE, ANYONE?

By

Roderick J. Macdonald

From time to time, we receive letters from people who are looking for friends to correspond with. We recently received such a letter from Sister De Sales Jessup, 400 Angela Drive, Santa Rosa, California 95401. Sister De Sales would like to correspond in Braille with any deaf-blind person who might be interested.

If there are other readers who might like to make new pen-friends in this way, please write and let me know of your interest. We will be happy to print your address in THE VOICE so that others can contact you. Please be sure to give a little information about yourself, especially your full address and whether you prefer Braille or print. If you have any special interests, it would be well to mention them so that anyone who shares the same interests can write to you.

NEW PUBLICATION

"Self-help organizations of the disabled are rapidly growing in strength and numbers and should be used as a valuable resource by all employers who are committed to sound human resources management, in general, and to effective management of people with disabilities, in particular."

This statement, recently made by Rami Rabby, serves as the theme for a useful "how-to" publication which he has just released, entitled: "Employing The Disabled: What Are Self-Help Groups and What Assistance Can They Offer The Employer?"

Drawing on his past experience as Director of Affirmative Action Programs for the Handicapped at Citibank, and on his present practice as a consultant on employment of the disabled and other aspects of institutional integration of the handicapped, Rabby develops a working definition of disabled advocacy groups and distinguishes between their role, on the one hand, and the role of other types of organizations and agencies in the field of disability, on the other. He then goes on to offer concrete and practical

examples and illustrations of how employers and disabled self-help groups can collaborate productively in outreach and recruitment, awareness training for supervisors and co-workers, removal of architectural barriers, and modification of discriminatory personnel practices.

What makes this publication truly indispensable is that the narrative text is followed by two appendices listing over 100 disabled self-help organizations (complete with up-to-date addresses and telephone numbers), the vast majority of which are national in scope and have well-developed regional and local chapters.

Since the organizations listed represent literally millions of people with disabilities, these appendices should serve as a valuable resource, not only to employers of the disabled, but also to all other organizations -- federal and state government departments, colleges and universities, public school systems, hospitals nursing homes and other health care institutions, housing authorities, law enforcement agencies, museums, theatres, concert halls and other cultural facilities, zoos, parks and other recreation areas, transit systems, social service and rehabilitation

agencies, etc. -- which are legally obligated to make their premises and programs accessible to the disabled, or wish to publicize their services to the broad spectrum of the disabled community.

Finally, disabled individuals, parents of the disabled, and advocacy groups and self-help organizations, themselves, should be well served by the listings as they work to promote more effective programs of independent living and mutual assistance, increase and solidify their memberships, bring their organizations together within wider coalitions, and broaden their political base.

"Employing The Disabled: What Are Self-Help Groups and What Assistance Can They Offer The Employer?" costs \$5.00, plus 50¢ for postage and handling. Orders and checks (made payable to Rami Rabby) should be mailed to:

Rami Rabby
136 East 55th Street
Suite 8E
New York, NY 10022

For further information, please write to the above address, or phone (212)371-7766.

Quantity discounts are available.

"THE VOICE"

RODERICK J. MACDONALD, EDITOR
1910-E BARRYMORE COMMON
FREMONT, CALIFORNIA 94538

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The Voice

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND

Editor

Nancy Rosen

1805 Irving Street

Denver, Colorado 80204

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December, 1981

No. 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	1
HKNC VERSUS THE FEDERAL BUDGET	
By Martin A. Adler.....	5
AIRLINE POLICY	
By Roderick J. Macdonald.....	9
CONVENTION PLANS	
By Nancy Rosen.....	12
CONVENTION ECONOMICS	
By Nancy Rosen.....	15
PERSONAL PROFILE I:	
ASLAUG JOHANSEN HAVILAND	
By Aslaug Haviland.....	18
PERSONAL PROFILE II:	
MARIE COOK POWELL	
By Rose Heiner.....	24
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR HEALTH	
By Janet Ehrlich.....	28
DISABLED AMERICANS IN JAPAN	
By Nancy Rosen.....	34
CHANGING OF THE GUARD--	
COMMENTS FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR	
By Nancy Rosen.....	37

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PLEASE WRITE TO ANY OFFICER OR MEMBER OF THE BOARD WITH YOUR CONCERNS.
DUES, DONATIONS AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE AADB
TREASURER, MARTIN GREENBERG.

SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR THE VOICE TO THE EDITOR, NANCY ROSEN.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

AADB President

The months since our last meeting have been busy ones. Your new Board of Directors has been getting acquainted, exchanging addresses and making suggestions for improvement. The people whom you voted to the Board are a dedicated group, and we are all looking forward to working together.

As many of you know, I have been working for the past three years as Director of the Deaf-Blind Program at Ohlone Community College in California. However, budget cuts at both the state and federal levels have cut so deeply into the program's funding support that the program will be terminated as of December 31, 1981--at least until new funding can be secured. I will be leaving the program to return to my former position as a Computer Specialist with the U.S. Department of Labor. My new address, effective January 1, 1982, will be 1220 East-West Highway, Apt. 711, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

The success of our last convention has

increased interest in the AADB. We have added 74 new members since that time. Our membership is now 284. Of these, 160 are active members. "THE VOICE" has also been growing fast--we now have 571 large print and 132 Braille readers on our mailing list.

Because of the rapid growth of our magazine, we face several financial problems in the months ahead. Given the funds presently in our treasury, we can only afford two more issues of "THE VOICE" unless we can raise additional funds. Your Board is presently considering ways and means of raising funds to meet this need. Among the suggestions made so far are: raising annual dues, charging a subscription fee, charging a registration fee at conventions, and/or sending the magazine only to members. It should be mentioned that many members have not paid their dues within the past year, and this lost income has made the problem even worse.

Because of the high cost of producing "THE VOICE"--it now costs over \$1,000 per issue--we need to ask your help. Any donations you can make will be greatly appreciated and will help the AADB continue

producing your magazine. Donations made to "THE VOICE" or AADB are tax deductible. It would be particularly helpful if as many of you as possible could donate the \$6 it costs for each subscription annually. Please make checks payable to "THE VOICE."

Nancy Rosen and her 1982 Convention Committee have been doing a tremendous job in making preparations for our next convention. If all goes well, I will be meeting with her committee in December to discuss plans.

Four groups have indicated an interest in hosting our 1983 convention. Each group has been asked to prepare a formal, written proposal to the AADB Board so that we can review and evaluate the prospective sites. The locations are in Los Angeles, California; Rochester, New York; Detroit, Michigan; and Fremont, California. Each of the groups interested in hosting this convention has shown great enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard in preparing for 1983. I hope we will have more details in time for the March issue.

With extensive help from Janet Ehrlich and Christy Gilbough, we have been

putting our mailing list on computer cards. This will enable us to quickly produce our mailing list in several formats. Christy, in fact, wrote a very good computer program to produce the printed lists.

All members and readers will join us in sorrow at the passing of Mr. Harold Hathaway of Stow, Ohio, who passed away on September 26. Many of our "old timers" will remember Harold who was active in organizing the National Association of the Deaf-Blind which eventually evolved into the AADB. Mr. Hathaway served as President of the NADB.

Congratulations to Steve Ehrlich and Scott Seigal, both of whom recently started working as Computer Programmers. We all wish them the best of luck in their new careers.

Congratulations to Judy Seid on her November 28 marriage to Mr. Robert Case. On November 12, many of Judy's friends gave her a shower at the home of Steve and Janet Ehrlich. The couple plan to make their home in Fremont, California.

As President, I have been asked to serve on the Helen Keller National Center's Advisory Committee. This will give deaf-

blind people the opportunity to make suggestions and offer new ideas to HKNC. If you have any ideas or comments, please write and give me your input so that I can bring it up at the HKNC Advisory Committee meetings.

HKNC VERSUS THE FEDERAL BUDGET
by
Martin A. Adler
HKNC Director

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults was originally established in 1969 in agreement with the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Authorization for our operation is contained in Section 313, Title III of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Our funds are appropriated by Congress annually. We operate under the general supervision of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, specifically, the Bureau of the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

Each year the administration of HKNC presents written testimony and appears before Congress in regard to the financial

needs of HKNC in providing services throughout the country to the deaf-blind adult. Through the efforts of Congressmen Wolff and Gilman of New York, we received an additional \$1,000,000 for our 1981 budget. This increased our budget to \$3.5 million for 1981. The additional million dollars was approved on the basis of our plans to expand services to the deaf-blind by developing a national training team and expanding our affiliation network services. The national training team comprised of at least five individuals, would travel to all parts of the country to provide training, instruction and consultation to workers for the deaf-blind. The expanded affiliation network would provide increased funding, operate more agencies providing services for the deaf-blind, and establish a network of services throughout the country. The national training team and the expanded network affiliation system would also be designed to provide coverage for those Rubella children who are soon approaching adulthood.

However, soon after receiving authorization for an additional \$1 million, budget cuts were mandated by the Federal adminis-

tration and we subsequently suffered a \$300,000 cut. To some extent these cuts did affect our planning for the expansion of the affiliation network. The national training team operates as originally planned. Despite the budget cuts, we have been able to increase affiliation funding, and have activated plans to establish a network of services within the affiliation program and HKNC. This expansion was made possible by cutting back on some other services that we did not regard as priority, and by developing a system of setting priorities on all expenditures of funds within HKNC.

I am sure you are aware that the White House has requested additional cuts in funding for all agencies for the 1982 budget. We are positive that we will be included in those cuts. We are also positive that any further cuts within our service delivery program and the system will seriously affect services that are available to the deaf-blind.

We have therefore, again, sought Senate and House of Representatives assistance. We have appealed to members of the Senate Appropriations Committee in Washington, D.C. not to cut further into services for the

deaf-blind of our country. Congressman John le Boutiller of New York is gradually becoming our Congressional champion for the deaf-blind. He is even advocating a separate bill for our Center that might enable us to receive additional funding to provide much needed services.

We believe it is necessary for members of the deaf-blind community, their families and the staffs of agencies that work with the deaf-blind to make their views known. You can write to Senator Harrison Schmitt, Chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Senate Sub-committee at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. I believe it would be important also to notify Congressman John le Boutillier of your awareness of the assistance we provide at HKNC. We are positive that once members of the Senate are aware of the needs of the deaf-blind of our country, they will provide funding and other forms of assistance.

For those readers who are not familiar with HKNC, we are located in Long Island, New York and provide training, research, community education, and a full

range of rehabilitation services for deaf-blind individuals over the age of 18. We also operate nine regional offices throughout the country that provide direct services in their local areas. For further information on HKNC and our regional offices, write to us at 111 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, New York 11050

AIRLINE POLICY

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

Over the past year or so, a growing controversy has been developing over the policy adopted by U.S. Airlines. As reported in the March issue of "THE VOICE," this policy allows a deaf-blind person and a sighted-hearing companion to fly on U.S. Air flights for the price of one ticket. However, the same policy also requires that any deaf-blind person must be accompanied by a companion in order to fly with this airline.

A number of people have been taking sides on this issue. Some people feel that the two-for-one airfare is such a great thing for deaf-blind people that the

disadvantage of being required to have a companion is not too important. Many also feel that deaf-blind people cannot travel alone and therefore the policy makes sense. Others feel that the whole idea of the two-for-one airfare is demeaning to deaf-blind people, since it takes away one's independence.

In past issues I asked that members write to me and let me know your feelings on this. Many of you have done so. Some have even written articles for "THE VOICE."

Of the approximately 30 people who have written to me on this subject, four have expressed support for the U.S. Air policy, while one expressed strong opposition to the very idea of the two-for-one fare. Approximately 24 persons wrote to express support for the two-for-one airfare concession, but strong opposition to the requirement that all deaf-blind people must be accompanied by companions.

Shortly after the conclusion of our convention, I wrote to each member of our new Board. Each member of the board who replied said we should support the two-for-one airfare concept, but oppose any requirement that deaf-blind people must be

accompanied by companions in order to fly. With the Board taking this position, and with the vast majority of members apparently supporting this position, this will be our official policy on the matter until either the Board votes or the membership adopts a resolution changing the policy.

I might also add that the National Association of the Deaf has adopted a similar position. Last June, the NAD sent a letter to U.S. Airlines, supporting the two-for-one airfare but strongly opposing the requirement for companions. In addition, Congressman Don Edwards, who is a member of the House Judiciary Committee and Chairman of the Sub-committee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, wrote to say that, in his opinion, the U.S. Airline policy was discriminatory.

I would like again to urge members to write to me to express your views on this matter or any other matter of concern to deaf-blind people. It is only in this way that your officers and Board will know what you want and what you believe.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A volunteer for the Colorado Convention Committee has called all

the airlines that use Stapleton Airport in Denver to find out if they would offer two for-one fares for deaf-blind delegates and their companions going to and from the AAD Convention in August. The answer she received from all the airlines was "no." They all answered that they give no free fares. On the other hand, they do not require that deaf-blind people fly with companions. Their standard official policy seems to be to treat disabled and non-disabled passengers alike. U.S. Airlines does not fly to Denver.)

CONVENTION PLANS

by

Nancy Rosen

The dates and place for the 1982 AADB Convention are set for August 22-29 on the campus of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Our volunteers are enthusiastic about taking part in this event. Many of the AADB members who have written to me are excited about our plans to hold an art show at the convention, and many members want to see a convention program that focuses on independent living for the

deaf-blind. There will be business meetings and, of course, we are looking forward to meeting old friends. There will be recreation, parties, dances and quiet social hours at this convention too.

Rod and Ele Macdonald stopped in Denver on their way back east. While they were here they met with our committee and drove to Greeley to see the convention site and talk to people from the university. The primary discussion at both these meetings was how to raise the funds to make this convention possible. People at the meetings were optimistic about fundraising, but agreed that it could be a very serious problem without the assistance of everyone who can help. (See the following article on "Convention Economics.")

If the planning schedule for the convention runs smoothly, you should be receiving your registration forms in February. The forms will be sent to all deaf-blind participants at the last convention and to all people who returned their pre-registration forms. If you are not on either of these lists and want to receive forms, please send your name and address as soon as possible. We are planning on 400

people for this convention, so prompt return of your forms when you receive them will help ensure your accommodations.

When you receive your forms, you may notice that they are very similar to past forms, but that we have made some changes and additions. This year we want as much active participation by deaf-blind delegates as possible. There will be places on the forms to indicate what events interest you the most. A separate form will be included for people who want to take part in the art show. To help ensure that each deaf-blind participant has the best possible guide/interpreter, we will be requesting that as many of you as possible bring your own companion to this convention. A place on the forms will be left for you to indicate whether or not you will bring your own interpreter. We will also ask if you feel you can act part time as a volunteer yourself--either as a guide or interpreter. Many deaf-blind people have done this at past conventions. Finally, we will be requesting that each delegation have a chairperson who will be responsible for coordinating the travel plans for their groups. This coordinator can be a volun-

teer or deaf-blind person, but should be someone we can contact quickly, by telephone if necessary, about any changes in plans.

You can write to me at the following address: Nancy Rosen, 1805 Irving Street, Denver, Colorado 80204.

CONVENTION ECONOMICS

by
Nancy Rosen

As most of you know, the cost of the AADB convention has been steadily rising over the years. At Perkins in 1980 the convention fee was \$75, at Gallaudet in 1981 it was \$100. At Greeley, we will be asking a fee of \$126 from each deaf-blind delegate to cover the cost of room and board for the convention week.

Each year the convention fees paid by deaf-blind delegates only pay part of the entire cost of the convention. The host organization, the AADB and other agencies serving the deaf-blind have contributed the rest.

When planning started for the 1982 convention, it appeared that funding

sources would be the same as in the past. Now because of rising prices and Federal funding cuts, this is no longer true. We have been told by one agency that has helped AADB in the past that they will have no funds available for the convention this year. At this time when basic programs are being cut back because of a lack of funds, there is little money for meetings such as ours.

The Colorado Committee has been contacting many organizations for help. Although the response has been positive in many ways, we are not sure we will be able to raise all the needed funds by August 1982.

To illustrate just how difficult the problem is, let us look at what are some of the actual costs involved. The actual cost of providing room and board for one person for the convention week is approximately \$126. Since it has been our custom to accomodate volunteers at our conventions free of charge if they help out as interpreters and guides, the real cost would be doubled for each deaf-blind person. Add that to the cost of local transportation, large print or Braille materials, tours,

recreation facilities, meeting rooms, refreshments and other things that are so much a part of our conventions, it is clear that the total cost of a convention is close to \$350 or more for each deaf-blind person taking part. This is far more than anyone can afford.

Some of the suggestions on how to meet this financial problem that are presently being considered are:

1. Charge a \$25 fee for each volunteer who does not accompany a deaf-blind person to and from the convention.
2. Charge a \$10 registration fee for everyone taking part in the convention, both deaf-blind and volunteers, who are not AADB members. The registration fee would be \$5 for AADB members.
3. Have exhibits by companies and organizations that provide aids, devices or services of interest to deaf-blind people, and charge a \$100 fee to each exhibitor.

These are just a few of the possibilities. Perhaps readers can assist us by suggesting other ways to raise funds and keep the costs for participants at a minimum. Your ideas will be very helpful. Perhaps your local club of deaf-blind per-

sons can help raise a little money to help make this convention possible. Contributions, no matter how small, will be very much appreciated. Checks should be made out to the 1982 AADB Convention and sent to AADB Convention, c/o Charlene Rios, 1575 Sherman Street, Room 524, Denver, Colorado 80203.

PERSONAL PROFILE I:
ASLAUG JOHANSEN HAVILAND
by
Aslaug Haviland

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Aslaug Haviland is the former Second Vice President of the AADB.)

I was born in Oslo, the capital of Norway, on January 19, 1913. My maiden name was Johansen.

I attended public school. It was during my fourth-grade year that I began losing my hearing after a serious bout with scarlet fever. My hearing became steadily worse until I became profoundly deaf.

This was a terrible blow, not only to me but also to my parents. They had already made plans for me to attend a music

conservatory. I had been playing the guitar since I was six. My parents had also promised me lessons in violin, for we had been told that I had talent in music. Now all this was out of the question, and I had to learn to go on in a world of silence for the rest of my life--but I did go on playing my guitar, and I continue to do so even today.

After four years in a boarding school for the deaf, I attended a school for deaf girls where I was instructed in cooking, housekeeping and handicrafts. There were no educational opportunities open to me after that, for at that time there was no high school for the deaf, let alone college. However, I continued to learn through reading and self-study.

At the age of 21, I married Arne Vailand, a young deaf man who was president of the Oslo chapter of the Norwegian Organization of the Deaf. Arne was also editor of a national magazine for the deaf at that time, and later we published our own magazine which featured stories and pictures about deaf people from around the world.

In 1941 our son, George, was born. This was during the German occupation of

our country. During the five years of the German occupation of Norway, we spent most of our nights down in a bomb shelter. We kept hearing that if the Germans won the war, they would send Norwegian boys to Germany for training in the "Hilter Jugend" (Hilter Youth). If German lost, the Russians would surely occupy Norway, and that would mean they would train our young men to be Communists. So when the war was over, many people left Norway, some in small boats and others in larger groups. Many did not even wait for visas.

The idea of my visiting the United States was a dream I had quite often. But when Arne and I told friends of our dreams they just laughed at us. After all, they said, a deaf person had never been granted a visa, and not only was I deaf, but almost blind too. They all told us we would not even be granted an interview at the embassy.

Well, our friends might be right or they might not. It was Uncle Sam who would have the last word. We did apply for visas, and when we picked them up we were still not quite sure the dream had come true. Our friends shook their heads at th

very idea of it and only began to believe it was possible when they saw Arne, George and me off on the "Olsoford" liner. I learned later that other deaf people had applied for visas, but had not been granted permission to emigrate to the United States.

We first lived in Canada for a few years. Shortly after our arrival, my sight became very poor, so that I was no longer able to read printed matter. Later, after we had lived in Canada for a time, my husband Arne passed away.

It was at this time that I moved to the United States. It was a time in which I was still adjusting to becoming blind and to the loss of my husband. Yet, I had a teenage son to care for and a strong will to go on. I began to learn Braille, and then took correspondence courses from the Hadley School for the Blind. I learned English also, and every new thing I learned was exciting to me. Richard Kinney was my teacher at the Hadley School, and he inspired me to learn.

After I had lived in this country for five years, my friends began talking about the possibility of my becoming an American

citizen. I was very excited about this, but the question was--would they grant citizenship to someone who was both deaf and blind?

I began to study American history in order to be prepared for the examination. Finally the day came when I was summoned to take the examination. My friend, Jackie, came as my interpreter. There were several others in the waiting room who, like myself, sat on the edge of their seats wondering how hard the examination would be. Well, they said I made it with flying colors.

Then came April 8, 1964, the day when one of my wildest dreams came true. There were 30 immigrants that day in front of Judge Sherman Christensen. My interpreter and I were asked to sit at the front of the room towards the side, rather than with the others. After the judge made a speech, everyone stood up--except me--and placed their hands over their hearts to give the oath. The following is quoted from the newspaper.

"There she was, a woman who had never seen this country and never heard a word of English spoken. The judge offered to let

her waive the repeating of the oath, but Mrs. Vailand, with tears in her eyes, told him she wanted to repeat the oath too, like the others had just done. The judge read the oath. The interpreter spelled it to her, using the American one-hand manual alphabet, and Mrs. Vailand repeated it in a loud, clear voice."

I was told later that the judge's eyes were wet too. When it was all over, he came down to congratulate me and gave me a warm hug. The rest of the day was a blur--reporters, friends, flowers, gifts and a lovely luncheon with some of my closest friends.

I was the first deaf-blind immigrant to be granted American citizenship, but some years later I heard that another deaf-blind woman from the Orient had also been granted American citizenship.

America is my country, the people are my people, the language is my language--I am an American!

Several years later I met and married Fred Haviland, with whom I have been very happy. We live in Salt Lake City, Utah, where we have many friends. My son, George, is living nearby, and I am content.

PERSONAL PROFILE II:
MARIE COOK POWELL
by
Rose Heiner

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Marie Cook was born in Bristol, Pennsylvania, in 1937. One of her brothers, Edwin Paul Cook, who dies of cancer in 1978, was also deaf-blind. Marie attended the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf at Mt. Airy from 1937 through 1940. Although she attended the Florida School for the Deaf at St. Augustine for two years and also attended school for a while back in Pennsylvania, she did not receive a very extensive education. Instead, she became a skilled housekeeper. She later married a deaf man and had a son, Peter, who is now 26. She met her second husband Robert Powell in Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1966 and they were married shortly thereafter. They have one son, Tim, who is now 13. Marie learned Braille at home in 1976 in San Diego, California where she, Bob and Tim now live. Marie's hobbies include cooking, shopping, games, correspondence and crocheting, not to mention tandem bike riding. The following article was written

by her friend and neighbor.)

There goes Marie Powell in her "foxy lady" T-shirt and red shorts, with dancing eyes and silver curls dancing in the autumn air. She and her hubby, Bob, wave a friendly greeting as they whiz by on their tandem bike. Marie brings such joy to my life that I have nicknamed her "Sunny." God probably calls her "Delightful."

Marie gives life to a scripture by the Apostle Paul: "We walk by faith, not by sight." My friend is blind and deaf. At birth her parents were told, "Your baby girl will live in a world of silence." At the age of eighteen, darkness slowly began to replace the light in this beautiful young woman's life. Four years ago, at age forty-five, Marie lost the rest of her vision as the result of retinitis pigmentosa. Is it possible to be blind and deaf and not be handicapped?

Dynamic faith in God and an indomitable spirit of determination has enabled Marie to overcome her physical limitations. For her, the word Handicap does not exist. She has a vocabulary resplendent with words like "courageous," "adventurous" and

"achiever." There is no room for self-pity in her exciting life as wife and mother.

Marie's hands are her windows to the world. When greeting someone new, she places her hands on their face and traces the features with her fingertips. Being introduced to Marie is a beautiful experience. She learns as much or more about a person by the sense of touch as someone does who depends on their eyes for perception.

To communicate with Marie, one uses sign language. Lightly she touches your fingers as you spell out words. For those who do not know the manual alphabet, Marie write her thoughts down on paper and receives another's on a typewriter that prints in Braille. Bob and their thirteen-year-old son, Tim, are accomplished signers and are always willing to serve as interpreters.

When asked about his wife's many achievements, Bob Powell enthusiastically responds with the one he cherishes most: "She's a terrific wife and mother." Marie has two words to describe what brings her the greatest joy and fulfillment: "Bob"

and "Tim."

Marie crowds many activities into her busy life. She likes to crochet and has made some beautiful afghans. She has a scrabble game that has been adapted in Braille for her enjoyment. This is her game, and she beats the sock off most opponents. Camping, swimming and bowling are some other favorite things.

Long walks with her newly-acquired dog, Miss Piggy, bring Marie genuine pleasure. Prior to receiving this bright and loveable yellow Labrador retriever, Marie's only mobility aid was a cane. It is possible that Marie was the first deaf-blind person to be trained to use a guide dog.

Just as a candle, burning brightly, gives off light in a dark space, Marie's glowing personality fills a room with the sunshine of joy and laughter. She reflects the light of God's love wherever she goes. Her exuberance and zest for life are enviable; I never think of my friend as being deprived or handicapped. Many times I have wished others could be so richly blessed. Marie has found what everyone searches for--the secret of a singing heart.

Alan Fromme, the well-known psychol-

ogist, when asked how to cope with handicaps, replied: "Each of us carries some kind of albatross; a crutch or brace is only a more evident one. The question is not what disability we suffer, but how we deal with it."

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR HEALTH
by
Janet Ehrlich

Last year, a long-time employee of the Lighthouse for the Blind died of bowel cancer. The sad part was that the doctor felt they might have been able to save him if the cancer had been found earlier. Why wasn't it found earlier? One reason was that he was blind and so unable to see the blood in his stools--a warning sign that usually occurs long before cancer causes pain or discomfort.

This article will explain some things that YOU can do to help you and your doctor improve your chances for living a long and healthy life.

1. Find a good doctor. Talk with friends VR counselors, other agencies or local members of the community, etc., to find a

doctor who is willing to take the extra time necessary to work with you. Explain things fully when you make an appointment. Be clear that you have a communication and/or a visual problem and that they must schedule an extra long appointment. That way the doctor will have less pressure and won't have to hurry. If they refuse, find another doctor--that one is not right for you.

2. Get a qualified interpreter. If you have a communication problem, the doctor's office is not the place to try to rely on lipreading or hastily written notes.

Again, talk with local people and agencies and find an interpreter with whom you are comfortable and who is skilled in medical interpreting.

3. Write down your questions. After reading this article, plan your appointment. Write down your questions, suggestions and ideas so you don't forget anything. If you have any health complaints now, write them down too. Include details such as frequency, time of day or week, your temperature, medications you are taking and their times, etc. Leave room on your paper to write down the doctor's answers and suggestions.

If he wants you to eat or do certain things ask him or his secretary to write them down for you to prevent confusion. When you are talking to the doctor, ask him to explain everything clearly. Often doctors do not explain things because they don't think you will understand, or if they do explain something, they use long medical words that are hard to understand. Stop him and ask him to explain words you don't know or tell him to slow down if you can't keep up.

Write down, or ask someone else to write down, things you want to remember. Don't allow yourself to leave feeling more confused than when you went in. Remember, you scheduled an extra long appointment, so use the time. You are paying for it!

4. Preventive medicine. Be sure you are eating properly, exercising regularly, and maintaining your correct weight. Discuss any problems or questions with your doctor. He can help you change your diet or exercise as needed. Don't drink too much or smoke. Use only those medications and pills which your doctor recommends or prescribes.

5. Seven warning signs of cancer. You can check yourself for most of these problems:

- * Unusual bleeding or discharge;
- * Lump or thickening on the breast, testicles, or elsewhere;
- * Sore that does not heal;
- * Change in bowel or bladder habits;
- * Hoarseness or cough;
- * Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing;
- * Change in a wart or mole.

(The signs of cancer were adapted from "What You Need to Know About Cancer," U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, NIH Public Health Service.)

If you have any one of these problems and it lasts for more than two weeks, you should see your doctor. Cancer often causes no pain during the first stages, but may show up as one of the above listed problems. Finding cancer early is important, and usually the person finds it himself, not the doctor. Don't be a hypochondriac always inventing diseases and rushing to the doctor every week, but do pay attention to your body and notice if it is calling for help.

Blood in the stools (bowel movements) or in the urine may be difficult for you to see. Ask your doctor to let you do "occult (hidden) blood" tests every six months.

DISABLED AMERICANS IN JAPAN

by

Nancy Rosen

From November 7 to November 21, 1981, I was honored to be part of a delegation of disabled people from Denver to visit Takayama, Japan. Takayama is Denver's Sister City, and the journey was a very special person-to-person exchange in honor of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Earlier in the year, disabled people from Takayama had visited Denver.

Our seven-member delegation included: Rick Graham, a paraplegic who uses a wheelchair; Dave Palmer, who has cerebral palsy; Wilbert Moehrke, who is blind; and myself, Nancy Rosen, who is deaf and "legally blind."

Our cultural trip actually started three weeks before we left for Japan when we took a Berlitz language course to learn a little Japanese. How does a deaf person learn to speak a foreign language? I had a friend take down phonetic notes which I would repeat. She would listen very hard and then write down what she heard the teacher say. This way I was able to learn

simple phrases such as "yes," "no," and "I don't understand." In Japanese, I don't understand is "wakarimasen."

Wakarimasen--I don't understand! I thought I would "wakarimasen" my way across Japan!

As it turned out, I had very little chance to try spoken Japanese except for saying "thank you very much" (domo arigato). Many of the people I met in Takayama were deaf, and we communicated in signs and writing. The deaf people I met used a combination of Gestuno (the international sign language) and local signs from Takayama. In spite of our cultural differences, we were able to communicate about simple things and to compare notes on our different sign languages. For example, Japanese fingerspelling is based on one of three Japanese alphabets. Their way of finger counting is almost the opposite to ours.

Although our group also visited Kyoto and Tokyo, Takayama was the highlight of our trip. We stayed there one week as guests of the city. Our welcome started even before we reached that mountain city, when Mayor Kichiro Hirata met our train a stop

before we got off and rode into town with us. We were greeted by a flag-waving crowd that included many disabled people. From then on, the week that followed was a whirlwind series of meetings, formal dinners, parties, and tours of social service agencies, hospitals, old age homes, schools, local industries and historical sites. We answered many questions about the disabled in the United States that ranged from "How do we fund our social programs?" to "How does closed caption television for the deaf work?"

Throughout our trip, we found the Japanese people helpful and considerate, especially towards members of our group who were physically disabled. Because of this help, we were able to visit many places not usually reached by people in wheelchairs. Many people we met seemed amazed that we visited such "inaccessable" sites and asked if all disabled people in the United States are as independent as we were.

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD--
COMMENTS FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

by
Nancy Rosen

It is traditional for a new editor to comment on what great and exciting changes are planned for future issues. Well, I do not plan to make many changes in "THE VOICE" except to try and make it more YOUR magazine by including more articles and letters by and about AADB members. I hope to continue the high standard set by our previous editor Rod Macdonald--and to get the magazine out on time. This issue is late because of the change in Rod's job and my trip to Japan.

In the future we hope to have "THE VOICE" printed during the month for which it is dated. This means our next issue will be printed in March and that I will need your letters and news by the first week in February. Articles for the June issue should reach me by the first week in May.

In the future I would like to include ideas on interpreting for the deaf-blind. Louis Baskerville, a volunteer at our last

convention, has sent "THE VOICE" a copy of the special code she used when interpreting for her deaf-blind friend Dee Foulette. Many of the abbreviations are based on Braille and others are modifications of signs. If enough people are interested in this, I can put part of the code in a future issue of "THE VOICE." I would like other suggestions on how to make interpreting for the deaf-blind easier, faster, and less tiring for everyone. Please write to me about this.

I would also like to do an article or two on service dogs for deaf-blind people. We read in this issue that Marie Powell may be the first deaf-blind person to be trained to use a guide dog, and I am presently "being trained" to use a hearing dog. I know some of you have guide dogs that you received before you lost your hearing. Has anyone who is deaf-blind been trained for a guide dog? Does anyone have a hearing dog? What was the training like and what organization gave you your dog?

Please write and keep me posted. I prefer print, but I can also read simple Braille.

From: RODERICK MACDONALD
AADB PRESIDENT
1220 E-W HIGHWAY, #711
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910

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No. 1

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Continued inside back cover

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE-----	PAGE
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Roderick J. Macdonald	1
ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT By Roderick J. Macdonald	4
TREASURER'S REPORT By Martin Greenberg	6
THIRD HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN 1983 By Roderick J. Macdonald	9
ADELINE BECHT EARNS DOCTORATE By Roderick J. Macdonald	11
TWENTY YEARS FOR BRAILLE INSTITUTE D-B PROGRAM By Frances Mannino	12
PERSONAL PROFILE: BILLY BEGAY By Billy Begay	13
...A PART OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY By Jack Wright	17
EDITOR'S REPORT By Nancy Rosen	30
HOW TO WRITE TO THE VOICE By Nancy Rosen	31

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

As this column is being written in late July, neither the March nor the June issues of our magazine have yet been mailed out. This is a very frustrating situation for our readers, but it is even more frustrating for Nancy and me. The manuscript for the March issue was mailed to the printers on May 5, and the manuscript for the June issue was sent on June 23. Normally, it will take four to six weeks for the magazine to be ready for mailing. This time, however, we asked Volunteer Services for the Blind to produce our magazine in both braille and large print, rather than just in braille. That added work caused the delay.

Just what we can do to speed things up remains to be seen. We will be discussing this at our convention, and hopefully you will help us come up with some good ideas. The basic problem is that if we cut corners to save money as we have been doing, we face delays; if

we push to have the magazine out on time, we may have to pay more. It is a very difficult situation.

Much of our time over the past few months has been devoted to preparations for our convention. This time we do not have a big agency with paid staff helping us, although the Division of Rehabilitation in Denver has been extremely cooperative. Nor do we have a big sponsor with the "big bucks" to make the job easier. It has been a very hard job, and has required a lot of time and effort from a large number of people. But we can be proud of what we did--all of us--because we have an exciting program planned, we have almost 300 people registered for the convention, and things are looking much better. Once the convention is over we can start in on new projects, like fund raising and possibly having our very own "Home Office."

Congratulations to Janice Den Hartog and William Adams who were married in June. Janice a long-time member of the AADB, is a graduate student at Gallaudet College. The couple will make their home

in Washington, DC, for the time being.

Congratulations, too, to Rick Joy who recently took part in the National Games for the Disabled. Rick, an avid swimmer, came away with four gold and one silver medal in swimming.

On July 19, five AADB members--Bob Smithdas, Michelle Smithdas, Art Roehrig, Jack Wright and Rod Macdonald--participated in a day-long series of panel discussions and other activities with the students enrolled in the graduate program in the area of deaf-blindness at Western Maryland College. We were all very pleasantly surprised at the warmth and enthusiasm these students displayed. As mentioned in a previous issue, the Western Maryland program is the first Masters Degree program to train professionals to work with deaf-blind adults. From what we saw it is a great program and very exciting news for deaf-blind people. Now, for the first time, we will have professionals trained to work in the area of deaf-blindness rather than deafness or blindness.

Daisy Fleming wrote to share with us the secret of how she knew when she was getting a little older--it was when

her "get up and go" got up and went!

ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

Once again it is time to start thinking about our next election which will take place next year. It is very important that anyone wishing to be a candidate for office or a position on our Board of Directors understand the requirements.

Our organization has five officers. The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Treasurer must all be deaf-blind persons. The Secretary does not have to be a deaf-blind person, but must have the skills necessary for the job--taking notes at meetings, typing, etc. Both deaf-blind persons and non-deaf-blind persons are eligible for election to our Board. All candidates, however, must have been members of the AADB for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the election.

This time candidates do not have to be nominated by another person. All you need to do to be a candidate is make sure

your membership dues are paid in full, and write to our Secretary with your full name, address and the name of the office or board position for which you wish to be a candidate. Your letter must reach our Secretary on or before January 1, 1983.

If you wish to be a candidate, you may also want to submit a resume or statement of your qualifications for publication in THE VOICE. In order to do this, be sure you have mailed your resume or statement of qualifications to the Editor, Nancy Rosen, no later than January 1, 1983, so that it can appear in the March, 1983, issue. The addresses for our Secretary, Steve Barrett, and our Editor will be found inside the front cover of this issue of THE VOICE.

We urge you to think carefully about being a candidate. We sure need good officers and board members in order to have a good organization. If you wish to be a candidate, please do not delay--write to Steve Barrett with your announcement as early as possible.

TREASURER'S REPORT
JANUARY 1, 1982 - JUNE 30, 1982

by
Martin Greenberg
AADB Treasurer

Hello everyone there! Finally the AADB Chicago funds have been transferred to the Wells Fargo Bank in the San Francisco area from the Beverly Bank in Illinois. This transaction was dated March 24, 1982, for the amount of \$3,756.88. Some weeks later, I received invoices from Roderick Macdonald for costs of THE VOICE magazine that included the costs of print and braille listed separately. I immediately made checks payable to Rod Macdonald for the full amount. This is explained in the Treasurer's financial statement. I also received \$3,000 from the American Foundation for the Blind for the 1982 AADB Convention.

We have received some donations for THE VOICE, but not enough to cover costs. In the past, non-members have received the magazine free. This is no longer possible. Our officers have voted to

make a year's subscription to THE VOICE \$5. Membership dues are now \$8 per year and include THE VOICE. Send your money order or check to me made out to AADB, Inc.

Please let me know if you want to receive THE VOICE in large print or braille, and whether you are deaf-blind or not. Deaf-blind people can be active members of the AADB. Non-deaf-blind people can be associate members.

Please remember that our mailing list for THE VOICE is processed four times a year. Be patient. You will receive your magazine beginning with the issue that comes out after your name is placed on the list.

The total membership of the AADB as of June 30, 1982, was 306. Of these, 187 are active members, and 119 are associate members.

For the period of January 1 to June 30, 1982, 35 people or organizations have made donations to the AADB, THE VOICE or the Convention Fund. Most of these were listed in the April or June VOICE. Since these lists were written,

Sheila M. Antosch donated \$6 for THE VOICE. This makes a total of \$3,416 that was donated to the AADB San Francisco accounts for this period.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Editor's Note: The following is a summary of AADB funds for the period January 1 to June 30, 1982. It includes income and expenses from the three AADB San Francisco accounts and omits the transfer of funds between accounts.)

Opening Balance (from 11/1/81) \$1,491.00

Income:

Dues, VOICE subscriptions

and small donations 812.00

Chicago Funds Transfer 3,756.88

AFB Donation 3,000.00

Total Income \$7,568.88

Expenses:	
Braille VOICE	\$2,286.07
Print VOICE	1,253.90
Secretary of State of Illinois	13.00
GOOD CHEER Donation	100.00
Service Charges	-----3.40

Total Expenses	\$3,656.37
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Closing Balance (6/30/82)	\$5,403.55
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THIRD HELEN KELLER WORLD CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD IN 1983

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

The Committee on Services to Deaf-Blind Persons of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind recently announced initial plans for the third Helen Keller World Conference, to be held at the Bahrain Sheraton Hotel in Manama, the capital city of the Middle Eastern country of Bahrain. The conference will be held November 5-8, 1983, and will focus on the theme of Science and

Technology as it applies to deaf-blind persons.

Two previous Helen Keller World Conferences were held--in New York in 1977 and in Hanover, Germany, in 1980--which brought together deaf-blind persons and professional workers from around the world. At the first such conference, a "Declaration of the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons" was adopted by the deaf-blind participants, while at the second conference a "Declaration of the Responsibilities of Deaf-Blind Persons" was adopted. At the third conference attention will be focused on what science and technology has accomplished to date to aid deaf-blind people.

Dr. Robert Smithdas, Director of the Helen Keller National Center's Community Education Department and First Vice President of the AADB, will chair the conference. Bob is Chairman of the WCWB's Committee on Services to Deaf-Blind Persons. Also on the conference planning committee are Anders Arnor, Secretary General of the WCWB; Dr. Gerrit Van Der May, a mathematician and computer

programmer from the Netherlands; Stig Ohlsson, a social services officer from Sweden; and Roderick Macdonald, AADB President.

This conference offers deaf-blind people from around the world the opportunity of meeting with each other and sharing ideas. We hope to have more information on this conference in future issues of THE VOICE.

ADELINE BECHT EARNS DOCTORATE

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

Adeline Becht, a 48-year-old resident of Portland, Oregon, recently became the first deaf-blind American to earn a Ph.D. degree as a deaf-blind person. She joins Dr. Gerrit Van Der May of the Netherlands as the only deaf-blind individuals who earned their doctorates as deaf-blind people.

Ms. Becht--"Addie" to her friends--became deaf and blind as the result of drug and alcohol abuse in her early years. She emerged from these difficult times with a fierce determination that enabled

her to complete requirements for two doctorates, in clinical psychology and in counseling. She was assisted in this effort, which took five years of hard work, by her friend and interpreter, Beth Schmidt, who sometimes worked 18 hours a day interpreting, driving and transcribing Addie's books and class materials into braille.

Ms. Becht plans to expand her private practice as a clinical psychologist. We all wish her the best of luck, and our warm congratulations.

TWENTY YEARS FOR
BRAILLE INSTITUTE D-B PROGRAM
by
Frances Mannino

The Braille Institute of Los Angeles wishes to announce the twentieth anniversary celebration of the Deaf-Blind Program on December 15, 1982. This program started on December 15, 1962, at the Braille Institute under the direction of Frances Mannino. Three of the seven invited deaf-blind attended this event. They were Josephine Ambrook, Berry Handock and Rick Joy. Four staff members and five guests completed the group.

These twenty years have brought about expansion in every direction. Some 34 deaf-blind adults have been or are participating in our monthly meetings, field trips, tours, picnics, camping and attendance in daytime classes at the Braille Institute.

We feel happy about our progress which has enabled deaf-blind men and Women to live a fuller and more independent life.

PERSONAL PROFILE: BILLY BEGAY

by

Billy Begay

Many readers who know me will be aware that I am a Navajo Indian from New Mexico. I am pretty proud to be the first American Indian to appear in the pages of THE VOICE! I hope you enjoy reading my story.

I was born on November 5, 1956, in the small town of Shiprock, New Mexico. I was born both hearing and sighted. I became totally blind very suddenly when I was about seven years old. I can't really explain it--it happened during the night, and when I woke up in the morning I was not able to see anything.

I became deaf when I was 13 years old as the result of a serious illness that lasted for several weeks. However, I had some useful hearing until October of 1980, when I was again seriously ill. Since then I have not been able to hear anything.

When I lost my hearing, I was sent to the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts. This was far from my home in New Mexico, but it was also far from the life I knew. When I went to Perkins, I did not know any English, so I had much to learn!

I certainly enjoyed my eight years at Perkins because there were so many interesting activities. I was on the Perkins wrestling team for five years, and on the track team for two years. I also represented my cottage against other cottages in football for four years, and baseball for two years. I also enjoyed other sports, such as bowling, basketball and swimming. These activities were a lot of fun! I also had many friends at Perkins. Perhaps my best friend is Roddy Macdonald, because I was able to see him many years

after we left Perkins when he worked at Ohlone College in Fremont, California, which is near where I live in San Francisco. Many readers may also know some of my other deaf-blind friends, such as Isaac Obie, Bob Smithdas and Leonard Dowdy.

I work at the San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind as a broom winder. I came to the Lighthouse in 1972, and I have enjoyed my work very much. However, the Lighthouse will close its workshop in September, and I will have to move to Seattle where I will work in the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind's workshop. I am not too happy to have to move, for I will miss my many friends in California--friends I have made over the past ten years. Nor do I really understand why the San Francisco Lighthouse shop is closing. The building is still in good shape and the work is good for those of us who work there. It enables us to earn a living! But I am sure I will make new friends up in Seattle, too.

Back home in New Mexico, I have six sisters and two brothers...SIX SISTERS. Having six sisters doesn't make me chase

women. I am in the middle of the family. Three of my sisters are married, and both of my brothers are married. I am not married myself--yet. Some good friends are women, especially Eleanor Macdonald, Roddy's wife. She is now living in Maryland with Roddy, but they are still my best friends of all time!

I am five feet, four inches tall, and weight 168 pounds. I can communicate with others using my voice, fingerspelling or sign language.

I am totally blind, and I cannot hear, but I love to travel around San Francisco. I know the city pretty well now, and I feel comfortable using the bus or the BART subway trains. I love to go exploring new places, and this has helped me gain confidence in my travel skills. I would like to help other deaf-blind people learn to travel independently, for then we can enjoy things together. I do not feel I am the greatest deaf-blind person--of course not!--but I do feel I have learned some things, and I like to share my experiences with other deaf-blind people.

I have not attended the AADB convention since 1976, when it was held in Napa, California. This year I will attend the convention in Greeley, Colorado, and I am looking forward to seeing you all there! I wish you all the best of luck for many years to come!

IN COMMUNICATION
COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS PROGRAM

...A PART OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY

by

Jack Wright

reprinted from

THE DEAF AMERICAN---Vol. 34. No. 8, 1982

I am writing this article for THE DEAF AMERICAN, because I want to share some of my experiences with deaf people. I feel this will help deaf people understand deaf-blindness and feel more comfortable being with deaf-blind people. Many deaf people know very little about deaf-blindness, and are very apprehensive about approaching a deaf-blind person, let alone becoming friends with one.

For 20 years, I was a deaf person in the Deaf Community. I attended the Virginia School for the Deaf, and enjoyed going to clubs, dances, homecomings and football games. At that time I did not have any problems with my vision, and in fact I never thought about it. By the time I was 20, I had some night blindness and started losing my peripheral vision, but I was not aware that I had any serious condition.

Over the next 15 years, my vision continued to deteriorate to the point where I could no longer ignore it. I was working as an engraver and I started to miss words when I was reading. The boss noticed I was having problems measuring, and sent me to see an eye doctor. The doctor told me I was legally blind and that my vision would get worse. He told me there was no treatment that could help me. It was not until much later that I found out I had a condition known as Usher's Syndrome--congenital deafness coupled with the progressive loss of vision due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. I felt my life was starting to go down the drain when the doctor told me I was

legally blind. When my boss got the doctor's report, he told me to start looking for another job, because I would be fired in 30 days.

I started to worry about what would happen to me. I didn't know anyone who had my problem. I didn't know where to go for help. In addition, I had a wife and two small children to support, and I had to find another job.

I went to the unemployment agency, but when they learned I was deaf and had a vision problem, they referred me to the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped. The counselor there suggested that I go to Jamaica. "Oh, wow!" I thought, "Jamaica Islands! That's great!" But the counselor explained that there was a training school for blind and deaf-blind persons in Jamaica, New York.

I went to this training facility, but three months later decided to leave. I did not like the food or the sleeping conditions, and did not feel they were really helping me. I was also worried about my family. With the help of my counselor, I finally found a job near my

home, working in a hospital laundry.

Over the next few years I started having problems seeing signs; I often had to touch the person's hands in order to follow what they were signing. I also could not recognize faces or read regular print. The only part of the newspaper I could read was the headlines. I felt my means of obtaining information slipping away. I felt more and more cut off from the world.

In 1975, I had a cataract operation which improved my vision somewhat. I could now read large-print and could read peoples' handwriting if they used a dark pen.

That same year I was divorced and went home to live with my parents. I was very uncomfortable with this situation because I had always been independent. But I did not know how to travel alone, cook or shop, and I had no knowledge of Braille. My vision began to deteriorate again and I became very depressed. I knew I had to do something, so when a counselor suggested I try a new training program for the deaf-blind in New York, I packed my bags and left.

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) had begun in 1969, and in 1976 opened a new training center in Sands Point, New York, on Long Island not too far from New York City. There, I studied Braille, cooking, cane travel, and learned how to play games that had been adapted for the visually handicapped, such as SCRABBLE. I also improved my ability to read signs by touch. I am very happy I learned all of these things, especially Braille, for I now feel I am no longer cut off from the rest of the world. I can read Braille magazines and books, and keep up with what is going on in the world. I also have a Braille TTY, so that I can now communicate with others by telephone.

I am independent again, but I do have one problem: Some deaf people avoid me. They are afraid I will become dependent upon them, and are unsure what to do in such a situation. They are used to using their sight in communication with others, and they cannot understand how a person who is blind can communicate in signs.

In social situations, I cannot see who is nearby, so I can't approach a person and start a conversation. I must rely on other people to come up to me and introduce themselves, or other people. Introductions are very important to me because that is the only way I can meet new people. This is the most difficult problem I have socially because I love to meet new people, from different places, and to have conversations with them. I love to communicate, get information and share ideas.

Whenever a person approaches me, it is important that they give me their name or their name sign so that I know with whom I am chatting. Sometimes people sign very slowly, thinking I will not understand them. However, I prefer that they sign at a speed that is comfortable for them, for then the conversation is more relaxed for both of us. It is not necessary for them to shorten sentences or simplify language. It is hard for some people to believe that I can understand as much Sign Language by touch as I once did by sight, but this is true. Some people finger-spell so slowly that I just give up!

One friend fingerspells with his arm stretched above my head, and I have trouble reaching that high to follow him. Some people use only fingerspelling when they communicate with me. While there are deaf-blind people who prefer to use only fingerspelling, I like to use Sign Language because it is the language I grew up with and the method of communication most comfortable to me.

Another problem is that many people feel I will injure myself in a strange place and are afraid to have me go with them. I love to go fishing, but one friend refused to take me, saying it was too dangerous. Some of my old friends continued to include me in their activities even after I lost my vision. That is because they had had some experience with other deaf-blind people, and were not afraid to stay with me. But others started worrying about my mobility--how to tell me about steps, how to guide me to a chair, and so on. I explained to them how to help me, and they quickly learned how to guide, and found it was not so difficult after all. A deaf-blind

person with the proper training and experience in using mobility techniques has very few problems getting around.

I now feel I am an independent traveler. I feel confident traveling by bus, train or plane. I write notes to ask people for help if I need it. I can tell from their reactions what their emotions are. If they seem confused, or do not understand, then I look for another person. Sometimes I meet a person who can't read--then I'm in trouble! I ask people to print in the palm of my hand with their finger, or I use the Tellatouch machine for receptive communication. When I take the bus home from work, I show the driver a card that tells him where I wish to get off, and he taps my leg at the right stop. I just have to trust him. Sometimes, of course, things will go wrong, just as they will for anyone. But the more experience I get, the fewer the problems, and the better able I am to deal with them if they do occur.

I do not subscribe to many magazines because I cannot read print. I do

receive one weekly news magazine, and several monthly or quarterly magazines, which come out in Braille. These magazines focus on the needs of blind people, with almost nothing included on deafness or deaf people. Deaf-blind people are not informed about what is going on since very little information is available in Braille or large print. The only way I can learn about deafness, about equipment designed to assist deaf people, activities open to deaf people-- in general, the Deaf Community--is to ask friends. This puts me at a great disadvantage. When someone asks me why I did not attend a special event, I have to explain that I simply did not know it was being held. Deaf people know amongst themselves what is going on in the Deaf Community, but a deaf-blind person has a great difficulty in finding out. Many deaf-blind people stay home alone simply because they do not know what is going on.

I am eager to have deaf people inform deaf-blind people, in their own magazines, what is going on in the Deaf Community. For example, club news or notices of special events for deaf people

could be included in THE VOICE, GOOD CHEER, NAT-CENT NEWS and other magazines to which deaf-blind people subscribe.

I would also like to suggest the development of a regular column in THE DEAF AMERICAN on the activities of deaf-blind people. This would encourage deaf people to participate in these activities and make it a two-way participation effort.

Many people feel that deaf-blind people cannot take part in activities such as card games. But they can--I am an expert game player! Several years ago, the California State Chess Championship for the Deaf was won by a deaf-blind person--and the runner-up was also deaf-blind. Quite a few games have been adapted in Braille, such as SCRABBLE, MONOPOLY, cribbage and card games. Others have been adapted for play by touch, such as chess, checkers and dominoes.

I also enjoy such activities as fishing, bowling, swimming, roller skating, and I would love to try skiing. I love to join deaf people participating in these activities because it is so

easy for me to communicate with people who know Sign Language. But many people feel that I will become a burden, or will slow them down.

For 10 years I was an enthusiastic member of a bowling league for deaf people. I did very well and had some of the highest scores until my vision deteriorated. My scores started to get lower and lower, and I felt the other team members would blame me for a low average score, so I quit. This past year I joined a bowling league for blind people. I really enjoyed the bowling, and the people were very nice, but there was no one there with whom I could communicate directly, so I quit in frustration. I feel really stuck in the middle--my score is not really high enough to compete in the league for deaf people, and I am often unable to communicate directly with blind people. I find that this carries over into other areas as well.

In the workshop where I am now employed, I have very little communication with others. Most of the people

communicate with me by printing in my palm, but they confine the communication to just a few very short sentences, such as, "Where do you live?" Then I have to write the answer for them to read. Some of the people are visually handicapped and cannot read print, so I cannot communicate with them at all unless Braille writing equipment is available. One rehabilitation teacher does know Sign Language, and a few other people know some fingerspelling, so I do have some communication opportunities, but not very often.

While in training at the HKNC in 1977, I was going through a very difficult time of adjustment in my life. It was at this time that I met a young woman who became a very important part of my life. Julia helped me in so many ways, including giving me a kick in the pants when I need it! We were married in June of 1981, and we are very happy together. Julia, who is sighted and hearing, is a fluent signer so communication is not a problem. She has also learned Braille and copies material for me when necessary. However, I try not

to be dependent upon her, for I want to stand tall in her eyes as she does in mine.

And I do have much to be thankful for. I very much enjoy my work caning chairs at home, and I hope someday to start my own chair caning business. I have many friends and live an active enjoyable life.

I have tried to share with you some of my personal experiences that I hope will help you to understand deaf-blind people a little better. I would like to encourage deaf people to be friendly with deaf-blind people and to try to find ways of including deaf-blind people in your activities. Remember that we are deaf people too, and we would be happy to join with other deaf people and become a part of the Deaf Community.

(Jack Wright has his own chair-caning business in Glen Burnie, MD.)

EDITOR'S REPORT

by

Nancy Rosen

We are beginning new procedures that we hope will make this the last late issue of THE VOICE. The final large print version of the magazine will be typed here in Denver using a special typewriter with very large type that was given to us by Rod Macdonald for this purpose. The final large print copy will be mailed directly to the printer and a copy will be sent to Rod Macdonald for braille. Since both the editing and the typing of THE VOICE will be done here in Denver, we hope the process will go faster and that future issues will reach you during the month for which they are dated.

Beginning with the December issue, we will begin a new publication schedule. This means, for example, that news for the March issue must reach me by the first of February. I will begin editing and writing the magazine early in February. It will go to the printers

late in February and should be mailed out in March.

Future issues will depend on news, articles and letters from our readers. December will be a special issue on the 1982 convention. It will have copies of speeches, news of Board actions, and copies of prize-winning poetry from the AADB Art Show. March will include some convention articles and news that would not fit in December. Beginning with March, however, I will need articles, profiles and news clippings mailed in by AADB members and supporters.

HOW TO WRITE TO THE VOICE

by

Nancy Rosen

If you have news you would like to see in THE VOICE, please feel free to send it to me in either print or braille. Following are some suggestions for submitting material for publication in the magazine:

1. Although I can read braille, I prefer to receive articles and letters in print. Articles for publication should be clearly typed and double spaced. Brailled articles should be clear without a lot of rubbed out corrections. Use basic contractions if you wish (I am learning!). It is best to write braille on full sheets of paper (not file cards) and mail it flat in the proper sized envelope.

2. Be sure your copy is readable. I have received several typed letters from blind readers who were having ribbon problems. I could not read parts of these letters. One letter arrived with no return address and looked almost like a blank sheet of paper. Be sure your ribbon is new enough to type dark letters and that it is working properly. Type on standard weight typing paper and avoid using onion skin or air mail paper.

3. Be sure your name and address are clearly printed on the envelope and on at least one inside sheet. I have received letters with no name, no address

and, in the case of one sent "free matter for the blind," no post mark. One was brailled on file cards and some cards were missing.

4. If you see articles in magazines or newspapers about deaf-blind people or programs for the deaf-blind, please send me the original or a good, clear and complete copy. Include a letter from yourself so I know who sent the article. Be sure to include the author's name, the name and date of the publication in which the article appeared, the page numbers, and the address of the publication so I can write to the editor and request permission to reprint the article.

Remember, THE VOICE is not my magazine. It belongs to all of you. Please keep your letters and articles coming.

Board Members - Continued

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Please write to any officer or member of the Board with your concerns. Dues, donations and changes of address should be sent to the AADB Treasurer, Martin Greenberg.

Submit all material for THE VOICE to the Editor, Nancy Rosen.

From: Rodrick Macdonald
AADB President
1220 E-W Highway, #711
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Free
Large Print
Reading Matter
For the Blind

William F. Gallagher
American Foundation for Blind
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Check Abdullah M. Al-Ghanim

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

IF UNDELIVERABLE, RETURN TO SENDER

gmk ✓

The Voice

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND

EDITOR
NANCY ROSEN
1805 IRVING STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80204

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THE VOICE is the official quarterly magazine of the American Association of the Deaf-Blind. It is published in September, December, March and June. Membership in the AADB is \$8 per year and includes THE VOICE. A subscription to the magazine alone is \$5 per year.

AADB membership applications, subscription requests and change of address information should be sent to:

Martin Greenberg
AADB Treasurer
281 27th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

Make your checks or money orders payable to the AADB.

Letters and articles for THE VOICE should be sent to:

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Please write to any officer or member of the Board with your concerns. Dues, donations and-changes of address should be sent to the AADB Treasurer, Martin Greenberg.

Submit all material for THE VOICE to the Editor, Nancy Rosen.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE-----	PAGE
INDEPENDENT LIVING	1
By Daisy L. Fleming	
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER	2
By Roderick J. Macdonald	
DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	6
By Martin Greenberg	
DELEGATION COUNT	7
By Charlene Rios	
AN INTRODUCTION AND DEDICATION	9
By Nancy Rosen	
DEAF-BLINDNESS: MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF INDEPENDENCE	10
By Michelle J. Smithdas	
INTERPRETING AND DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE ..	19
By Theresa B. Smith	
THE DEAF INTERPRETER	25
By Thelma Schroeder	
UNDERSTANDING DEAF-BLINDNESS	31
By McCay Vernon, Ph.D.	
ISOLATION IS SOMETIMES SELF IMPOSED..	41
By Dee Follette	
SWEDISH SERVICES FOR THE DEAF-BLIND ..	47
By Stina Nyman	

continued

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Continued

ARTICLE-----	PAGE
AADB ART SHOW	51
By Nancy Rosen	
SOMEONE TURNED THE LIGHTS OUT	53
By Ethel Burns	
A SWEET TEACHER DIED IN DECEMBER	54
By John Carter Washington	
ASL	59
By Don Meyer	

INDEPENDENT LIVING
Dedicated to
The 1982 AADB Convention
By Daisy L. Fleming

Sing a song of Independent Living,
Dream your dreams and build your castles
tall;

Mind not if just one room is all life's
giving,

Put a picture window in each wall!

Lend all your strength, no matter aching
bones,

You can be your own woman--your own man!
Circumstances make good stepping stones,
Not what you cannot do--but what you can!

And know within your heart, God made you
you!

He threw away the pattern--You alone
Have self determination, hold it true--
Go build your dream, your life, your
royal throne!

Independent Living is NOT free,
Demanding all you are or ever can be!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

As this is being written in late September, we are all "recovering" from what surely must be our most successful and enjoyable convention ever. One hundred thirty-six deaf-blind people, assisted by 130 volunteers, took part in this year's convention, held August 22-29 at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. The food was great, the service was terrific, the facilities were wonderful....everything, in fact, went into making this a memorable experience for all who took part. Many thanks are due to the host committee and to the University staff for the hard work that went into this year's convention, and I am sure everyone who took part will join me in a sincere "thank you!"

This year's convention was "special" in many ways, not the least of which was the excellent opportunity we had to learn new things while at the same time having a good time. For those who were not able to attend--and to give those who were a chance

to review what we learned--we will be publishing as many of the speeches as we can, starting with this issue of THE VOICE.

It is also worth mentioning that, for the first time in our history, we were able to complete all of the business on our agenda at both our Board and Business meetings. It is certainly understandable why several Board members, at the end of the convention, exclaimed "We DID IT!" We sure did, and we'll do it again next year, too!

Speaking of next year, our Board voted to accept a bid to hold our 1983 convention at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York. The dates are not yet definite, but the host committee would like to hold the convention in July.

In addition, our Board approved a bid from Seattle, Washington, to hold our 1984 convention in that city. Having two years to prepare, the host committee is very excited about their plans and their ability to work out any problems well before convention time. The convention site will be the University of Seattle campus. More information on this will be given in future issues of our magazine.

A bid was also received to hold our 1986 convention in Los Angeles, California. The Board voted to postpone consideration of this bid until a later date, but this will serve to show just how much interest is being shown in the AADB and our activities.

Congratulations to the members of the newly-formed New Jersey Association of the Deaf-Blind, which held its first meeting on September 26. The officers of this new group are: President, Saul Schiff; Vice-President, Agatha Munn; Secretary, Ethel Burns; and Treasurer, David Bazzika. We understand the NJADB has plans for a very active program in the coming year, and we wish this group every success!

Congratulations, too, to the members of the deaf-blind group that meets monthly at the Braille Institute of America in Los Angeles, California. This group will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 1982, and a special anniversary celebration will be held at the Braille Institute on December 15. Anyone who might be in the Los Angeles area on that date, and would like to attend the celebration, is urged to contact Frances Mannino at the Braille Institute of America.

We are saddened to learn of the death, on August 31, of Sina Fladeland Waterhouse at the age of 85. Mrs. Waterhouse, who was a teacher at the Perkins School for the Blind for nearly 50 years, was the first speech therapist ever to work on the faculty of a school for the blind. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Edward J. Waterhouse, former director of Perkins. Many of us who knew Mrs. Waterhouse personally remember her as a warm, cheerful person who always looked on the bright side of things.

We are also very sorry to report the death of Barbara McCarthy of Santa Clara, California, who passed away last April. Barb was a volunteer at our 1981 convention. She will be greatly missed by the deaf-blind people of Northern California. She was still very young and full of energy and enthusiasm.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
July 1 - September 30, 1982
by

Martin Greenberg
AADB Treasurer

DONOR-----	AMOUNT-----	FUND-----
Tina & Joseph Baker	\$ 100	VOICE
Joan & Dick Bell	50	VOICE
HKNC	60	VOICE
Robert Heller	100	AADB
Klara Johnson	5	VOICE
Constance Watters & Michael E. Miles	50	Convention
Laura Rindahl	10	VOICE
Danny Wasilewski	50	Convention
American Council of the Blind, Inc.	2,000	Convention
Robert Gatchell	20	Convention
Bertha R. Simms	5	VOICE
Frances Mannino	8	VOICE
Theresa Smith	25	VOICE
Philip Glass	100	VOICE
Annonomous Contributors	1,427	Convention
Annonomous NAD Convention Contributions Collected by Linda Annala	400	Convention

DONOR-----AMOUNT-----FUND-----

Annonomous AADB

Convention

Contributions

Collected by

Martin Greenberg \$ 125 Convention

Perkins School for

the Blind -----5 VOICE

Totals for VOICE \$ 238

Totals for Convention 4,172

Grand Total for

Quarter \$4,540

DELEGATION COUNT

1982 AADB Convention

STATE-----DEAF-BLIND-----VOLUNTEERS

California 21 11

Colorado 7 13

full time

12

part time

Connecticut 1 0

STATE-----DEAF-BLIND--VOLUNTEERS

Washington, D.C.	3	1
Florida	2	2
Georgia	2	1
Idaho	1	1
Illinois	8	7
Indiana	2	1
Iowa	1	1
Kansas	3	0
Louisiana	12	6
Maryland	3	4
Massachusetts	7	6
Michigan	6	5
Minnesota	2	1
Missouri	1	1
Nevada	1	1
New Jersey	9	9
New Mexico	1	2
New York	15	12
North Carolina	1	0
Ohio	4	3
Oregon	1	1
Pennsylvania	3	2
South Carolina	1	1
Tennessee	2	1
Texas	5	8
Utah	1	1
Virginia	3	4

STATE-----	DEAF-BLIND	VOLUNTEERS
Washington	4	6
Wisconsin	2	2
Canada	1	1
Sweden	--0	--2
TOTALS	136	130

AN INTRODUCTION AND DEDICATION

by

Nancy Rosen

The 1982 AADB Convention included speeches and workshops by delegates, interpreters and professionals on the general theme "Deaf-Blindness: Meeting the Challenge of Independence." With the exception of the one on the Art Show, the following articles were originally presented at the convention. This is a small sampling of the speeches, as space does not permit them all to be included in one issue of THE VOICE. March and future issues will include additional articles.

It is with great pleasure that I dedicate this issue of THE VOICE to all the people--delegates and volunteers alike--who helped make the convention at the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley one of the best ever for the AADB. We are especially grateful to the staff at UNC and the people of Greeley for the welcome and help they gave us.

DEAF-BLINDNESS:
MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF INDEPENDENCE
(Keynote Address)

By Michelle J. Smithdas
Assistant Instructor
HKNC

How thrilling it is to see this year's convention centered on a theme that arouses such strong inner feelings in all of us. Each one of us strives for some form of independence, and when a deaf-blind person attains independence, it was a challenge to get it, and more of a challenge to keep it. With so many of us gathered here today,

we have an opportunity to share with each other what independence we have and what we want. Then we can go back home with new ideas for ourselves and ideas that can be shared with others.

What would life be like if we were not able to have any form of independence? Who would do all our thinking and decision making for us? Isn't it a challenge for us to say, "Hey, wait a minute--let me share with you what I think." But there is much more to meeting the challenge of independence than just thinking and decision making. We will see other factors that must be considered in enabling the deaf-blind to measure up to the challenges of independent living during this week's schedule.

Certainly we all want to feel a wholeness in ourselves, and the only way to get this feeling is to "break through" to attain the things that will bring the kind of independence we want. Feelings of sadness, depression, and loneliness develop when we cannot gain any independence for ourselves. We may have to wait and be told by others information we could have gotten for ourselves. I am sure this

little story will sound familiar to many of you:

"Everyone is having a good time except me! I am just sitting here, my thoughts going off into space! I am sad, depressed, lonely, unhappy, and my heart is sinking. This seems to be the end for me!"

But this does not have to be true today. With so many advances made in the field of deaf-blindness in recent years, a great deal of independence can be attained. Life continues to go on, and a step or two in the right direction keeps us going, until we can say to ourselves, "See, we can do just as well as anybody else!"

We can go back several years to when many of the things we have today were not available to us. Just think: only five years ago there were no such things as a TTY with braille print-outs, microwave ovens marked with braille, vibrating canes, and many other devices. During the past few years we have been given the marvelous Tactile Communicator, and more programs to train people how to help the deaf-blind. What would life be like without these things, and much more? We would be less independent! We must get involved and meet

the challenge if we want to share the independence everyone else enjoys.

Last year was designated the International Year of the Disabled Person, and it has prompted many to want one specifically focussed on this nation's disabled people. Activities started during the International Year have carried over slowly into this National Year. Things are changing slowly and we are getting more of the independence we want, but we have to fight for it, and that's where the challenge is.

We all should reflect back to the early days of the nineteenth century when almost nothing was known about the deaf-blind. Practically nothing was done for people who had lost both sight and hearing. These people were often locked away, treated like animals, and sadly neglected. Today this is not so, but we all have an obligation to teach the world that we are capable citizens able to perform many functions of life just like anyone else if we are given the opportunities we need.

Let us go over some of the questions that we all should consider during this

week of convention. "Who is going to tell me what another person is saying to me?"

"What about being in a group? Who is talking? Where is the speaker?"

"Perhaps a person who wishes to speak to me does not know how to communicate with me--who will help out?" "Where will I find people who will understand me and who can use a form of communication to interpret for me? Will they tell me everything and not keep things from me?"

"What makes me so different from others with the same disabilities?" "Can I work, and can I be employed?" "Can I work--and what happens to me if I do not work?"

"What kind of help is available to me, and where can I get this help?" "My eyes and ears are not functional--are there things that can take their place, things that vibrate and represent different signals?"

Today I have a special device, better known as the Tactile Communicator, or TC. I love it because I feel that it has opened up more of the world for me. It's wonderful to know when delivery people, the mailman, or friends come to the door. It's wonderful to know when the telephone rings, and to have sudden interruptions

in one's daily routine. It is only you who can help make independence possible and sturdy for the whole population of the deaf-blind.

And we should not forget the dots--braille! There have been many improvements in braille reading materials, and we can keep up-to-date on many current topics if we use the magazines and books that are available to us. Braille is important for deaf-blind people because it is the most accessible way we can get information and keep up with current events.

We need to develop our sense of independence. We must develop our potentialities to lead productive and independent lives, and to teach others how to do this. How can we keep others informed about deaf-blindness and make the public more aware of us? Where will this information come from? During this week it is hoped that each one of you will contribute your share of the answers by participating in discussions on the various aspects, needs and problems of the deaf-blind. Remember that one person cannot do it all; it has to be done by the group, and we must all pool our ideas for the benefit of the entire deaf-blind population.

There will be professional workshops, and I would like to remind you that you, yourselves, are professionals. You do not need all those degrees and honors to be a professional; you are professional because you know how deaf-blind people live and what they can do, and professional workers with degrees learn from you. We are the ones who are deaf-blind; we are the ones who must do all the work of meeting the challenges of life, who must get our rightful places and share of society. This means that we must work together and share our profession as deaf-blind persons. I hope that all of you will participate in the learning sessions, workshops, and various meetings, large or small, and contribute more than your two cents' worth.

What do you think of this little story? A deaf-blind person is left alone. No effort is made to communicate with him, even though he knows several methods of communication. Soon this person realizes that he is all alone in the room. Realizing that everyone must have gone to gather in another place, this person's

feelings begin to build up. What is building up in his mind? A way to tell other people that he thinks he should be part of the group. He asks himself, "Why didn't anyone tell me?" Then he goes to the gathering place, knowing where it is, and says clearly, "Is there a meeting? I didn't know. Why didn't anyone tell me?"

People learn from incidents like this for a short time, but to keep people learning and remembering, we must continually remind them of our presence and that being deaf-blind does not exclude us from activities. Just as the earth never stops spinning, we must always work together to improve conditions for the whole deaf-blind population.

Remember, it is only you who can meet the challenges of life--nobody else can do it for you. Others need to see and hear that you, yourself, and others like you, can perform the role of an independent life. Do not sit there and let your peers tell you what to do and how to do it. But do not think that because a handful of deaf-blind individuals can do some things well, and others can't, that it means that

you are not meeting the challenge. Everyone has different social, economic, and personal compositions which are deciding factors why one can do some things better, while another may not have had the same opportunity but may be able to do something else that the other cannot do. Perhaps both individuals did not realize such challenges existed as a form of independence. Now is a good time to start sharing the specific topics we have planned for this convention. Of course, there may be many "loose threads," but they should be shared by all of us.

The many speeches, workshops and meetings will center around the theme, "Deaf-Blindness: Meeting the Challenge of Independence." There will be something new added to this year's convention: learning sessions. These sessions should help us all learn what a person or persons, programs or centers, are doing to assist persons like us to meet the challenge of independence.

We have a full week of activities lined up for us and it's a wonderful opportunity for us to learn and to teach others. Then we can go back home, feeling

stronger and more confident that we can meet many of the challenges that will give us fuller, richer lives. Let's get together and help one another in combating those challenges of independence!

INTERPRETING AND DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE

By Theresa B. Smith, Coordinator

Interpreter Training Program

Seattle Central Community College

If I were to summarize my advice to interpreters for deaf-blind people, it would be: pay attention--think--take your time.

If we really pay attention, observe what is going on and think, then what we need to do and how to do it becomes obvious. Most of our mistakes occur because we are rushed, or thinking of other things.

Of course, there are skills we must have. We must learn the two languages well, both ASL and English. We must learn guiding techniques, and skills in describing the visual surroundings. We

must be skilled at catching the real message in what people say. We must be aware of social relationships and skilled at conveying that information in a non-judgmental way. The relationships are sometimes the real message.

Apart from skills, I have often thought about the personal qualities that a good interpreter for deaf-blind people has. A good interpreter is flexible. We must ask ourselves what our goal is, what we are trying to do. What is the point. If what we are doing isn't working, well then we must try something else. The method or technique is often not important. What is the point here? To communicate.

A good interpreter is patient. Communication with a deaf-blind person often takes longer. This can be for a variety of reasons. One reason is that people can only do one thing at a time with their hands. Another reason is that the adult may be recently learning how to communicate without sight or hearing. Yet another is that the deaf-blind adult may be isolated and have no opportunity for regular interaction/communication and may be a little "rusty."

A good interpreter has energy, strength and stamina. Interpreting is a physically and intellectually demanding task and breaks are not easy to come by. We need interpreters who can hang in there.

Good judgment is essential. It is important because one cannot do everything. One cannot simultaneously convey all the auditory and visual information that one is perceiving. Choices must be made. These choices must be made within a framework of goals and values. The multiple roles we often play also require good judgment.

A sense of humor is something every good interpreter has. A sense of proportion, an understanding of life from the long view and a sense of joy give one a sense of humor.

A good interpreter must have respect for human dignity, one's own, other interpreters' and the dignity of deaf-blind people.

A good interpreter is assertive. The interpreter needs to take care of self as well as others, to express his/her needs and feelings. If we are not

assertive, we end up "rescuing" and then gradually we feel a growing resentment. In the end we will persecute and punish the deaf-blind person for our anger and resentment. "Rescuing" helps no one. Being assertive means saying, "I am tired and need a break." "Thank you for that cup of coffee, I really appreciated it." "I really appreciate your clear signs. It makes it easy to understand you." "Can we switch chairs?" All of these are assertive statements that respect the dignity of everyone.

A good interpreter is responsible, keeps commitments, does her/his share of the work, and continues to grow and learn the profession. A responsible person contributes.

I have also spent some time thinking of the qualities of the "ideal client." The deaf-blind person for whom I really enjoy interpreting has, interestingly, many of the same qualities as a good interpreter.

I enjoy interpreting for a person who is flexible, who is open to many ways of communicating and who works at learning more. I like working with people who can

take changes or alternatives easily. A person who is open to new ideas and experiences is a pleasure.

I enjoy interpreting for someone who is patient, patient with my mistakes, patient with my learning, patient with my needs and understanding of the needs of others that take me away.

A good client has a lot of energy and stamina. It takes much energy and stamina to listen tactually, and to concentrate over long periods of time. Even being patient takes energy.

I want to interpret for deaf-blind people who respect human dignity, their own dignity (which leads to assertiveness), the dignity of the interpreters with whom they are working and the dignity of other deaf-blind people.

I like working with deaf-blind people who are assertive, who tell me what they like, so that I do not have to guess, and who express their feelings and ideas in a warm, positive way. This assertiveness includes persistence. Sometimes I do not understand right away, or sometimes we have to look at many alternatives. I like

a client to be assertive enough to persist. I appreciate working with deaf-blind people who are responsible, who keep commitments and do their share of the work.

Finally, of course, is a sense of humor, a sense of proportion, an appreciation for the pleasures of life and a large capacity for enjoyment.

I recently heard an interview with Katherine Hepburn in which she said she owed much of who she is to her parents who gave her the gift of freedom from fear. The interviewer (Barbara Walters) asked Miss Hepburn, "Aren't you ever afraid?" She replied, "Oh yes, I'm afraid of lots of things. I'm afraid when I make a movie. I'm afraid of this interview. But I'm not afraid of life. My parents gave me that."

In closing, if I were to summarize my advice to deaf-blind people, it would be this: enjoy...relax and enjoy--be open to new experiences--do not fear life.

THE DEAF INTERPRETER
By Thelma Schroeder
Gallaudet College

Good day friends and members. If I were asked what was one of the most wonderful things that had ever happened to me, I would say it is the way I, as the interpreter, communicate and bring the world to the deaf-blind person so he can envision the poetry of life. I have been deaf since birth and have used sign language most of my life. I have one older sister who is deaf, also. I had no contact with visually impaired individuals until I attended a college in Washington, D.C. There I met several hearing-vision impaired persons (mostly Usher's Syndrome). At first I felt nervous communicating tactually with them; however, I was fortunate that they were patient with me and allowed me to become used to them.

In 1980, I was hired as Assistant Director in the Hearing-Vision Impaired Programs at Gallaudet College. My boss is deaf-blind. I have learned to interpret for him in the office and in meetings. In some cases I have interpreted for other

deaf-blind people which has improved my interpreting skills through exposure to individual styles and preferences of communication.

Deaf interpreters are as good as hearing interpreters. The difference is that the deaf interpreter relies on vision while the hearing interpreter relies on hearing for receiving the message. Both groups are effective and efficient in interpreting and guiding.

Since I am deaf, I must totally depend on my vision when interpreting. Thus, it is important for a speaker or a platform interpreter to stand under good lighting so that I can keep my eyes on him/her at all times without strain and interpret comfortably. It is also important to be relaxed while interpreting. Sign as you would normally and let the deaf-blind person put his/her hand(s) on yours. Be aware that some signs which incorporate negations may need to be modified. For example, the sign "don't understand" should be signed as two separate signs-- "don't," "understand." Knowing the deaf-blind individual's preference in mode of communication is vital. It is

suggested that all interpreters be flexible, and adapt to meet the needs of deaf-blind individuals. Some deaf-blind people have some residual vision and will not need to put their hand(s) on the interpreter's. They will want the interpreter to sign in a more centralized restricted area so that they will not have trouble finding their flying hands. Many deaf-blind persons have different modes of communication, using "hands on" sign language, fingerspelling, and/or palm printing among others. It would be a good idea for interpreters to become familiar with different methods of communication. When an interpreter becomes tired, he/she should let the deaf-blind person know as soon as possible and then give a signal to alert a relief interpreter to take over. In this way, deaf-blind persons will not miss anything due to the interpreter's fatigue.

Interpreters have extra responsibilities when interpreting for deaf-blind people. They must describe the physical surroundings, let them know when other people enter or leave the room, identify who is talking, and guide them to where

they want to go, such as to the rest room, to the water fountain, etc.

Most deaf interpreters feel comfortable using American Sign Language (ASL) or pidgin sign English (PSE). Because deaf people have learned to rely on visible expressions and body language for information, they are at an advantage in picking up these cues and assimilating them into the interpreted message. Deaf-blind people, who were born deaf and who lost their vision later in life, miss out on a lot when these behaviors are omitted. They compensate their vision loss by having interpreters describe the facial expressions and body language of the speaker.

Last year, a deaf-blind friend and I went to a museum. He asked me to describe some oil paintings since he could not see well. As I described the paintings in detail, I began to appreciate the art very much. If not for interpreting, I would continue taking the arts for granted.

One problem regarding deaf interpreters and deaf-blind persons is that when out in the hearing community, they are often confronted by hearing people who do not know anything about deaf-blindness

and/or deafness. If the deaf interpreter is unable to understand them and provides them with paper and pencil, hearing people tend to become uncomfortable and may prefer to avoid the situation.

Because of their hearing loss, it is important for deaf interpreter/guides to be conscious of their surroundings. One day I got on a train with a deaf-blind friend. I noticed that almost all the passengers were soon leaving the car. I was puzzled, and as an interpreter/guide, I could not ignore that strange incident. I asked one of the passengers why they were leaving the car. She told me that the tracks between two stations were blocked and everyone had to leave. I realized that I had missed the loudspeaker because of my deafness.

However, hearing or deaf, all interpreters, when with a deaf-blind person of the opposite sex, may confront similar problems in guiding. A few months ago, a deaf-blind male friend and I went to Richmond, Virginia, to attend several seminars. He told me that he needed to go to the rest room. I was hoping I could find another male to assist him, but could

not. He went into the men's rest room alone while I waited outside for more than 25 minutes. Naturally, I started to become worried. With no male in sight, I was stuck, and prayed that he would be all right. Finally a man came by and I explained to him that my deaf-blind friend was in the rest room and asked him if he would check on him. That moment my friend came out. He told me that he got lost because there were too many doors inside the men's room.

My experiences as an interpreter/guide have been mainly positive and enriching. They have taught me a great deal about my environment and have increased my appreciation for life, providing me with new insight into that which I had formerly taken for granted. I have developed a sensitivity to those around me. In doing so, I have found my own reward in the knowledge I have gained.

UNDERSTANDING DEAF-BLINDNESS

by

McGay Vernon, Ph.D.

Western Maryland College

Lyman Kirkwood (not his real name) started losing his sight and hearing early in junior high. By the time he graduated from high school, he was legally deaf-blind. Despite his disability, Lyman went on to graduate from college. Currently Lyman has completed his second year as a Ph.D. student in English literature at a major university.

With the present huge surplus of Ph.D.'s in English literature, why is Lyman forcing himself to go through the grueling academic demands such a graduate program places upon a deaf-blind person? He knows and knows well that there are thousands of sighted hearing Ph.D.'s in English begging for jobs and with no prospects of employment. Many more are driving cabs, tending bar, or doing other unskilled jobs not related to English literature. Lyman knows and knows well that he will never be able to market the Ph.D. degree for which he is working so hard. No college will hire him to teach.

Lyman Kirkwood is working for a Ph.D. in literature because it is the only way he knows to prevent the isolation from people and from ideas with which deaf-blindness threatens him. Through literature Lyman has at least vicarious contact with people and with ideas. Without literature, he has isolation. Nobody knows this better than Lyman.

The rehabilitation counselor who is trying to get him to be a computer programmer does not understand. His parents who want him to cane chairs do not understand. The career guidance counselor at his university does not understand. But Lyman knows and knows well that what he is doing is one of the best ways available to him to survive psychologically the isolation of deaf-blindness.

ISOLATION

If one factor is absolutely basic to a psychology of deaf-blindness, that factor is isolation. No other aspect of deaf-blindness more exactly or completely describes its psychological meaning.

The isolation from people prevents the sharing of feelings with other human beings. It is this sharing that is the

essence of how people enjoy and cope with feelings as in the sharing of love or the venting of anger.

The isolation from cognitive input; i.e., the isolation from ideas and knowledge, is another major deprivation of deaf-blindness, but one that some deaf-blind people can partly overcome. The problem of intellectual deprivation is epitomized by the person born deaf-blind. No such individual has ever mastered language well enough to be literate. Without literacy a congenitally deaf-blind person's brain is isolated from the world around it except for the fragmented information that comes in through smell, taste, and touch. What concepts of the world derive from such infrequent and vague bits of sensory input?

AGE AT ONSET OF DEAF-BLINDNESS

Keeping in mind that isolation is the overwhelming pervasive factor in a psychology of deaf-blindness, let's look at how adjustment to deaf-blindness varies in terms of the age of onset of the loss of hearing and the age of onset of the

loss of vision. For example, was the person born deaf and then later in life became blind; did the blindness precede the deafness; or did both occur together? The reason these etiological factors are of such profound psychological importance is that they determine in large part the coping skills and the overall life experience the individual brings to the trauma of deaf-blindness. They decide the individual's capacity to cope with isolation from people and ideas. The age of onset of the blindness and the deafness also determines the psychological trauma of the loss; i.e., the amount of grief experienced.

Blindness Followed by Deafness:

Although blindness is generally a condition affecting people in later years, this is not the case of most deaf-blind people who became blind before they became deaf. Generally, they are individuals who have been blind from birth or for many years. Thus, they are people who have already made an adjustment to blindness. For example, they have mobility and self help skills. They can read braille. They have a good command of English and they

retain usable speech. Yet deafness symbolizes to them the loss of the sense they feel to be most important; i.e., hearing. Such a major loss means for them intense grief, mourning, denial, anger, depression, and all the other intense emotions that are the understandable reactions to a major life tragedy.

In terms of function, the major psychological loss faced by the blind person who later loses hearing is receptive communication. Although the individual can still talk to others, it is difficult for him to understand what they say to him. He does not know sign language. Finger-spelling is slow and few people know it. Other means of receptive communication such as print-on-palm are slow and laborious. Thus, the individual finds himself tremendously isolated from people. This isolation is primarily an inability to receive communication from others. However, the blind person who becomes deaf still has a reasonable access to information through reading, although he has lost access through radio and television. Thus, his isolation is primarily from people, not ideas.

Deafness Followed by Blindness:

By far the largest number of deaf-blind people are those who were born deaf or lost their hearing early in life and later lose their sight. For example, over half of deaf-blind adults have a genetic disorder called Usher's Syndrome, which usually involves a progressive loss of vision due to retinitis pigmentosa.

USHER'S SYNDROME - Individuals with Usher's Syndrome usually learn to cope effectively with their deafness early in life. They go to schools for deaf children, have mostly deaf friends, and become skilled in sign language and fingerspelling. When persons with Usher's Syndrome become legally blind they are able to communicate expressively and receptively with deaf people or hearing people who sign. This means that these individuals have a major psychological advantage over deaf-blind people who grew up blind, because there are three groups of people with whom the person with Usher's can communicate expressively and receptively. These are deaf people, hearing people who can sign, and other deaf-blind people. This means that persons

with Usher's Syndrome have a realistic chance to reduce the major psychological danger of deaf-blindness which is isolation from other people. However, if they, and most deaf-blind people are to escape isolation, society has to structure environments that will make it possible. This means residential living facilities with other deaf-blind people and with deaf people must be available.

Another major advantage persons with Usher's Syndrome have is that their loss of vision is gradual, spanning a period of 20 to 60 or more years. Thus, psychological adjustments can be made gradually. When such individuals have already married and had children, or when they have been able to maintain close contact with the deaf community, a support system exists which can help them in adjustment to deaf-blindness. Those who are unmarried or who have withdrawn from the deaf community, face a greater problem in coping with isolation.

OTHER ETIOLOGIES - Most other deaf-blind persons who were first deaf lost their sight from diseases such as diabetes, glaucoma, cataracts or other conditions which usually do not cause blindness until one is well into adulthood. Certain

conditions such as diabetic retinopathy or cataracts involve loss of vision, then partial return of vision, and a lot of uncertainty about prognosis. This is extremely traumatic and can precipitate understandable depression, anxiety, and suicidal feelings.

This relatively sudden or uncertain onset of blindness in most deaf-blind persons who first lose their hearing generally make adjustment for them more difficult than for those with Usher's Syndrome.

Congenital Deaf-Blindness: Most persons who are born deaf-blind are victims of prenatal rubella. Psychologically, their plight is dramatically different from that of almost all other deaf-blind people because they suffered the double loss before having gained the tremendous amount of knowledge those who have had sight or hearing a few years have gained. I know of no person born deaf-blind who has ever been able to overcome this awesome deprivation and achieve a basic competence in reading, writing, or sign language. In other words, none have attained basic communication. Thus, they

face almost total isolation from both people and ideas and knowledge.

The psychological problems of deprivation in rubella deaf-blind persons are compounded by the pervasive insidious nature of the rubella virus when it infects an embryo. Usually along with the loss of hearing and vision, the virus causes brain damage, endocrine disorders, and mental retardation. The result is often an individual whose psychological deficits are such as to require lifelong supervised care. Some of these persons are autistic and many never form close relationships with others.

The exceptions, and there are many, are usually rubella individuals who though legally deaf-blind have enough residual hearing and/or vision to be able to understand significant speech input or to be able to see signs and large print.

Sudden Onset Post Lingual Deaf-Blindness: A tiny percent of deaf-blind people born with hearing and vision lose both simultaneously and over a brief period of time. Meningitis, severe accidents, or war injuries are the usual causes. For these persons, the initial psychological

trauma is of a severity too great to even imagine.

However, these individuals bring to deaf-blindness a wealth of knowledge gained from their years as sighted hearing individuals. This knowledge aids in mobility, in self help, and most important, in human communication. They can overcome a lot of the isolation from ideas, people, and knowledge most deaf-blind people face.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In summary, one of the major factors affecting the nature of psychological adjustment in deaf-blindness is the time and the cause of the loss of each of the two respective senses. So great is this effect that often a deaf-blind person who was born blind and became deaf later has more in common with blind or hearing people than with most other deaf-blind people. Likewise, persons with Usher's Syndrome are psychologically more similar to deaf people than to many deaf-blind people.

However, the underlying psychological problem of all deaf-blind people is

ISOLATION FROM OTHER HUMAN BEINGS and from INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION. In other words, the problem is essentially one of severe pervasive deprivation and isolation.

For most deaf-blind people who are not mentally retarded and who had either vision or hearing at least for the first five years of life, the major solution to this awesome problem is some form of group living with other deaf-blind people or with others who are only deaf or only blind. It is up to this country as a society to provide this option to all deaf-blind individuals.

ISOLATION IS SOMETIMES SELF IMPOSED
by

Dee Follette, President
Northern California
Association of Deaf-Blind

I became blind resulting from spinal meningitis at the age of two-and-a-half years. Apparently the meningitis caused nerve deafness, but deafness did not

actually occur until I was ten years old. When deafness struck, I, my family, and the state school for the blind in Missouri where I was a student were ill-prepared for the emotional upheaval. I had one advantage: I already knew braille pretty well, and my teachers and blind friends could communicate with me that way. But I had no communication with my family. The blind school made arrangements with a teacher at the deaf school to teach me fingerspelling. After I accomplished that, I taught it to my friends and my older sister. For companionship, I turned to reading books. For several years the braille library was my closest friend. Six months after my deafness, it was found that I could be fitted with a hearing aid and I was fortunate that I could understand speech, hear music, and use the telephone. I felt I had no worries.

I was married at the age of 18 years, and two years later became a mother. I want to say here that I am the mother of four children - three sons and one daughter - and I have been married more than once. The men I have been married to were all sighted and hearing, but all

learned to communicate through finger-spelling.

In 1965, I had a severe setback in my hearing, and found myself tremendously upset and more than a little confused. I had young children at home, my youngest at that time was two years old. I felt great desperation to cope with the situation. Was I isolated? Not really, but probably I was making my own isolation because family, friends, and neighbors were all reaching out to me with reassurance, love and understanding. Not long after this second problem with my hearing occurred, they found a more powerful hearing aid for me and once again I felt safe and secure. However, a doctor who worked with me warned that if I had one more nervous shock or severe emotional upset of any type, I would be totally deaf. He strongly advised me to prepare for that event. How many of us say we will do it tomorrow? I was made to understand that I would only have one more tomorrow, so I got busy. I had a few deaf friends and I enrolled in a sign language class and began learning sign language. Being totally blind, without the eye contact and the

necessary expressive facial muscles, I never was able to learn ASL, but my grasp of English signs was fairly easy to accomplish.

In 1970, I gave birth to my fifth child, a little girl, and shortly after her birth it was found that she had a severe heart problem. She lived one week and died. This was the ultimate shock I needed to cause profound deafness. I was definitely isolated then, but it took the skills of a wonderful psychiatrist to teach me I was doing it myself. Wrapped up in my own thoughts and my own grief, I failed to realize that my husband and others were there to share if I would accept the sharing.

I had been given a Tellatouch machine back in 1955, something that I had put aside because I felt I would never have a use for it. In 1970, my husband persuaded me to unpack the Tellatouch and learn to read it. At first I think I was defensive, but my husband made me understand that by using the Tellatouch I would have a better link with the outer world and I would not be confined to those who knew fingerspelling. It took hours of practice, but I am deeply grateful to my husband for his perseverance.

because the Tellatouch truly has made my life far less isolated. Anyone able to push down a key can communicate on the Tellatouch. I have traveled alone. I have used it with bus drivers, airline personnel, fellow passengers, and in the doctor's office. Today, as a full-time university student at California State University, Sacramento, I find it indispensable at times in classroom lectures.

I am a social work major, but I am not going to school because I am afraid of isolation. I am going to school because my goal is to help others less fortunate than myself deal with the overwhelming problems they face due to their handicap.

Dr. Vernon says that isolation is a major problem in the world of deaf-blindness. I do agree, but for some of us, we make our own isolation without realizing it. Some of you have grown up in the deaf community. You are well adjusted with sign language skills, but remember, you may make friends with people who only use fingerspelling and those who may need to use palm printing or even write you notes on your scratch pad. Do you turn down a friend who makes an effort just because he or she is not skilled in your method of

communication? If you insist that you associate with people who communicate in your way, are you not isolating yourself? I have heard many say the hearing blind offer little to the deaf-blind community, but I disagree. I have had many wonderful hearing blind friends and all have made an effort to learn to communicate with me.

Speaking for myself, I believe in a wide variety. I would not choose to live in a community where it was all deaf or all blind or all deaf-blind. I have worked for 20 years with a deaf-blind group in California; a club we organized to give the deaf-blind social outlet. This club would not have been possible without the volunteer assistance we get from the sighted hearing, sighted deaf, and the hearing blind. My feeling that to eliminate isolation we must reach out to others and accept others as they reach out to us. All of us need to prepare for the future and perhaps it would be wise to ask yourself two questions: Have I made my isolation? How many tomorrows do I have?

SWEDISH SERVICES FOR THE DEAF-BLIND

By Stina Nyman

Sweden

My name is Stina Nyman, and I work as coordinator of interpreting to deaf and deaf-blind people in Stockholm, Sweden. Sweden has eight million inhabitants, and Stockholm has one million. I am traveling with Elisabeth Strång, who is an interpreter, and I will soon tell you why we are here. My English is not good enough for speeches, as I miss many of your professional words, but I hope that something I say may give you a positive impulse.

Interpreting services started professionally in Sweden in 1969, when it was first paid for. Before that the deaf had to rely only on relatives, church, etc., for interpreting. The free Swedish interpreting came from two different sources of money:

A. From LANDSTINGET (20 of them in Sweden) that pays for everyday needs like doctors, lawyers, job instructions, parents' meetings, union meetings, authority contracts, deaf clubs' needs, personal visits to our office, etc.

B. From federal money to pay for court, police, adult education at school and at work, etc.

From nothing in 1969, professional interpreting for the deaf has grown and Stockholm now has ten fully employed interpreters on permanent monthly wages. All Sweden has 40. Free-lancing was, and is, in Sweden not able to support anybody. Today's monthly wages are too low to recruit well--there are no male interpreters--but the profession is a step towards an interpreting center.

INTERPRETING CENTER means:

A. All interpreting costs are to be paid by the 20 LANDSTINGS (no federal money any longer).

B. More groups will be included - deaf-blind persons and deaf persons without sign language and persons without speech.

HANDIKAPPINSTITUTET in Sweden is the highest authority which proposed interpreting centers in 1975. Because of economic restrictions, it has been progressing slowly, but will function from 1983. However, every LANDSTING will decide the extent of their service economically. The first Swedish interpreter who was fully

employed for deaf-blind persons is Elisabeth, who is here with me. She is the first step towards a widened service which will make interpreting valuable to the deaf-blind.

Elisabeth and I have visited most of the deaf-blind in Stockholm. We are now trying to perform what has been asked for such as mail reading, shopping, keeping up information about jobs, etc. We look at this as a beginning and are visiting the US to get to know more the field. We have received foundation money to travel and are visiting many places. Several of our contacts strongly recommend that we be part of the AADB convention here. We are extremely glad that you made it possible for us to join you.

Sign language interpreters get their training at the deaf people's own school for the adult deaf. The courses started with four weeks in 1970, but are now ten weeks long. There is also one new course of 32 weeks. The short one has a sign language test that must be passed before a student can continue.

Interpreters to deaf-blind people have been trained since 1978 when the course

was two weeks long; now it is six weeks. The biggest difference between the two is that one does not have to know sign language to be an interpreter to the deaf-blind.

After our stay here in Greeley, we are thinking that the situation in Sweden and the US may be different because more groups of human beings get to know sign language here than in Sweden. One example is hard of hearing people; and another, college students in sign language programs.

IIY: In Sweden it is called text-telephone and came in 1980. Eight hundred people in Stockholm have text-telephones and they are free of charge. The deaf signing population of Stockholm first received telephones. We are now distributing them to other deaf groups, also free. Hearing people can buy theirs. We will also cooperate when the telephone for deaf-blind is introduced.

I have observed that Sweden seems far more generous than the US when it comes to giving free technical aids of all kinds.

AADB ART SHOW

By Nancy Rosen

One highlight of the 1982 AADB Convention was the Art Show by deaf-blind delegates and volunteers. There were 62 entries of separate art works entered in this show by 31 artists. Most of the people taking part in this show were delegates.

A very special "thank you" goes to our panel of judges and especially to Bunny Rubin and Emily Hesse who spent many hours during the Convention helping to arrange and hang art for the show.

The following are the categories of art in the show and the winning artists selected by the judges:

GENERAL CRAFTS:

Arturo Rios, First Place for two Wine Bottle Lamps

Pat Smolen, Second Place for a Sea Shell Plaque

Elaine Van Duser, Third Place for a Ceramic and Macrame Plant Hanger

FIBER CRAFTS:

Warren Wilson, First Place for a woven Rainbow Hanging

Klara Johnson, Second Place for a
Blue and Pink Weaving

Helen Gribbs, Third Place for an "I
Love You" Pillow in latch hook

LITERATURE (POETRY):

Ethel Burns, First Place for three
poems including "Someone Turned the Lights
Out"

John Carter Washington, Second Place
for two poems including "A Sweet Teacher
Died in December"

Don Meyer, Third Place for one poem,
"ASL"

The "Viewer's Choice" award, voted on
by all delegates and volunteers who cast
ballots, went to Theresa Sears for a Baby
Blanket and Scarf.

The poems at the end of this issue are
winners from this show. I only wish it
were possible to picture the winning crafts
here also. We have many talented members
of the AADB, and I hope to see an art show
become an annual event at our conventions.

SOMEONE TURNED THE LIGHTS OUT

By Ethel Burns

I thought to myself what a world would be,
if everyone was perfect as God meant, you
see.

But look around you and note, He tried very
hard but could not maintain, the balance of
nature is not the blame.

We're put on this earth for a reason I'm
told, to better one's self and to attain
a goal.

The going gets rough and you feel very bad,
tomorrow will come and it's just as bad.

Then all of a sudden the light starts to
dawn, you can sit and feel sorry but others
will scorn.

You can live with your heart-break, or do
what should be, look into your soul and
say to yourself, help only comes when it's
up to me.....

A SWEET TEACHER DIED IN DECEMBER

By John Carter Washington

A sweet teacher died in December.
So I heard in the news, yesterday.
Mrs. Wilhelmina Williams, I remember
The manner in which she did pray:

"O, Thou, in whom we move, and have our
being."

Each Prayer began with those words.
And the sounds in my heart kept repeating
themselves, like the songs of the birds.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within."
I've heard her ask God for the patience to
plod
With her "little women and men."

I've heard her pray: "Make us physically
strong.
Give us moral, intellectual strength."
And the memories of that teacher's prayers
Have stuck through the years of great
length.

Part Two

A sweet teacher died in December.
She possessed such a beautiful voice!
When she sang, at school, I remember
That my little heart would rejoice.

"O, safe to the rock that is higher than I,"
Was a song that she often did sing.
Right now!--This minute!--The echo seems
nigh.
Like bell tones, I hear each clear ring.

Part Three

A sweet teacher died in December.
One whom I met long ago.
It was nineteen twenty-six, I remember--
Several decades you know.

I remember the day--it was Wednesday--
That guardians took me to school.
I was crying, when I heard a friend say,
As she handed me water, so cool:

"Please, little man, don't cry; don't cry!"
And she wiped every tear from my face.
Then, into big arms, all tied up, was I
In a loving, and gentle embrace.

I sat there, so timid--like a mouse.
The teacher asked, "What's your name, honey?"
I stammered: "Ja-Ja-Johnny Po House."
Very softly, she whispered, "O, sonny!"

For some time, she brought to this orphan
Good food, gay laughter, and joys.
Indeed, I acquired a great fortune
Of warm love, and numerous joys.

Part Four

In the fourth grade at Raleigh,
NC School for the Deaf and the Blind,
I was quite wild, and too jolly,
But my Mrs. Williams was kind.--

Even, if twice, she did thrash me,--
Once, with a belt that was thick--
My teacher hated to lash me;
But I thank her for every lick.

"Pow!" was the sound of the leather,
As it whistled and zoomed to my back!
That flogging put me together,
And started me on the right track.

Now, although she whipped me, no more,
That belt, I can never forget!
For a while, my hips were quite sore--
And I can't disregard that thing, yet.

Part Five

A sweet teacher died in December.
Sometimes to my desk she would walk,
And say: "Little man, please remember,
we must have a heart-to-heart talk."

Of things, we'd discuss a variety:
Temptation, evil and sin;
We talked of the Christian society,
And of Jesus, who died for all men.

She told me, in words plain and simple,
Of when Jesus was just twelve years old;
And I pictured him there, in the temple:
Little Jesus, real brave, and real bold!

Part Six

To her, I won't say: "Bye-bye;"
For, in memory, she is not dead.
I will just keep my hopes up, sky high,
As I think of something she said:

"I see something in you, little man.
You are going to open many doors;
So, study, and learn all you can.
Something's in that little round head of
yours."

Part Seven

A sweet teacher died in December.
May she rest in the eternal arms
Of our Father who fashioned the timber
For that haven of heavenly charms.

May she enjoy peace and glory
That won't fade away, like an ember.
May she live to sing God's great story.--
My teacher who died in December.

(This story, in rhyme, is dedicated to
the memory of Mrs. Wilhelmina Williams
who died, December, 1970)

ASL
(American Sign Language)
by
Don Meyer

When I speak of love

with my tongue

It becomes an abstract thing.

When I speak of love

with my hands

It becomes me...

From: Roderrick Macdonald
AADB President
1220 E-W Highway, #711
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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THE VOICE
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OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND

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Submit all material for THE VOICE to the Editor, Nancy Rosen.

ARTICLE-----	PAGE
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT	
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER	1
By Roderick J. Macdonald	
AADB POSITION PAPER: CENTERS AND SERVICES FOR DEAF-BLIND CHILDREN	3
TREASURER'S REPORT	6
By Martin Greenberg	
MCCAY VERNON HONORED	10
By Sandra Waldman	
GALLAUDET COLLEGE'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS	12
By Arthur A. Roehrig	
EMPLOYMENT AT THE SEATTLE LIGHTHOUSE..	19
By Arlene Motulsky	
DEAF-BLIND SERVICES IN ONTARIO	28
By Joan Mactavish	
FOR THOSE WHO THINK	35
By Geraldine Lawhorn	
MY POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE	40
By Henry L. Buzzard	
MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE	43
By Jack Wright	
MY EXPERIENCE WITH INDEPENDENT LIVING.	48
By Betty Dowdy	

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Continued

ARTICLE-----	PAGE--
ADVOCACY AND THE DEAF-BLIND PERSON ... By Merv Garretson	53
ROBERT'S RULES SEMINAR By Edward G. Schaumberg, III	63
THE HKNC JOB BANK By Melissa Raue	67
JOB BANK QUESTIONNAIRE 	70

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Braille edition of this issue of THE VOICE has been made possible thanks to a very generous contribution from the Xavier Society for the Blind in New York. This is the third straight year that the Xavier Society for the Blind has covered the entire printing costs of an issue of our magazine. We are deeply indebted to Father Anthony LaBau, S.J., and to Karen Jernigan of the Xavier Society, both of whom are long-time members of AADB, for making this possible. A very special "THANK YOU!" from all of us!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by

Roderick J. Macdonald

Your Board of Directors has been very busy over the past few months. Among other things, we have been trying to be active in advocating for improved services in the area of deaf-blindness. Our chief effort in this direction has been participation in a coalition of organizations in the area of deafness. The group meets each month to discuss legislative issues affecting deaf and deaf-blind people, and to map strategy in promoting positive legislation in this area. At the end of this column you will find a Position Paper we developed in regard to the Federal program of Centers and Services to Deaf-Blind Children, which we are sending to members of Congress. This program is in danger of being terminated this year unless Congress takes appropriate action to save it.

In the March issue we reported that the Lions of Maryland were very interested in helping deaf-blind people of that state. We are delighted to report that these Lions really mean what they say. Several deaf-blind people in Maryland were contacted

by individual Lions, who offered help in any way possible. In one such instance the Lion promised to try to provide the deaf-blind individual with a badly-needed TTY.

In September, a group of deaf-blind people and friends began a monthly program of social activities for deaf-blind people and their friends in the greater Washington, D.C., area. This program began with a pot-luck dinner party at the home of Rod and Ele Macdonald, and in succeeding months similar parties were held at the home of Char Laba and Kathy Stock in Laurel, Maryland; at the home of Kathy and Marlene Lamon in Columbia, Maryland; at the home of Art Roehrig in Washington, D.C.; on the campus of Western Maryland College in Westminster, Maryland; and most recently at Laurel Center in Laurel. These parties have grown so fast that they are now too large to hold in an individual's home, and will be held at Laurel Center on a regular basis. Everyone brings something good to eat or drink, and we then put all the food together for a buffet-style dinner. If any of you happen to visit the Washington, D.C., area and would like to attend these parties, let us know and we will give you the dates and help arrange for transportation.

We are very sorry to report the death, on December 10, of Izona Davis of Berkeley, California. Izona was a very enthusiastic member of AADB, and had attended our last two conventions. She was looking forward to attending this year's convention too. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Since space is limited, I will close here. See you all at the 1983 convention!

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND
POSITION PAPER
CENTERS AND SERVICES
FOR DEAF-BLIND CHILDREN

BACKGROUND

Since 1969, services provided for deaf-blind children have been administered by Federally-funded regional centers under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education. These services were mandated by the Education of Handicapped Children Act, P.L. 91-230, Title VI, Part C, Section 622. Services covered deaf-blind children from birth to age 21, and include grants to educational institutions serving deaf-blind children, in-service training,

parent training, development of training materials and a wide range of other services. Funding for fiscal 1982 totaled approximately \$16 million. Planning under this program technically expired September 30, 1982, but has been extended through June 30, 1983, through a continuing resolution. The program is presently scheduled to be terminated as of July 1, 1983.

NEEDED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Unless Congress approves new legislation providing Federal funding for services for deaf-blind children, responsibility for such services will revert to the individual states. Few states are prepared to accept this responsibility; few have existing resources to meet the need. Congressional action is urgently needed to save this program.

AADB'S POSITION

Only recently have professionals come to understand that deaf-blindness is not simply deafness-plus-blindness or blindness-plus-deafness, since the individual cannot substitute the use of one sense to compensate for the loss of the other.

Consequently, specialized training of service providers is required, and specialized techniques are needed to implement these services. Tremendous progress has been made in the area of education of deaf-blind persons over the past 15 years; whereas only eight deaf-blind persons had graduated from college up to 1967, nearly 100 deaf-blind students are attending college this year alone. Many children who would never have received any training in the past are now being prepared to live independently or semi-independently with greatly increased work potential. We feel that to terminate, or even cut back, this program would be a substantial step backward, undoing much of the progress that has already been made. We consider this to be our top priority because the program has been a great success and cannot survive without Federal control and funding. We further feel that this program would suffer greatly if combined with or merged with any other program. We further feel that the upper age limit should be increased from the current 21 years to 25 years in order to provide a continuum of service that also covers post-secondary and employment

education, two areas inadequately covered at present. This is especially important because the education of a deaf-blind child is so time- and resource-intensive.

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 1982 - December 31, 1982

by

Martin Greenberg

AADB Treasurer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This report did not reach us in time for the March issue of THE VOICE. It is included here along with the lists of subscribers and donors as of March 31, 1983.)

Hi everyone! My treasurer's reports include financial statements, a list of donations and a list of pledges as of December 31, 1982. As of the end of December, we have 306 AADB members. These are 181 active members and 125 associate members. Because some of you did not pay your dues in time, I had to take some names off my list as of December 31. If everyone had paid their dues in time we would have 454 AADB members--254 active members and 200 associate members. I urge those of you

who have not paid your dues to do so as soon as possible so you can be on my membership list.

I have received a few complaints that members haven't received a receipt or AADB membership cards from me or that your names were not on the donation's lists. Let me explain briefly that you probably sent your checks to the wrong address, forgot to include your return address or sent me a braille letter that takes me a long time to read. Please be patient. Ever since the Greeley convention I have been sending out receipts and membership cards. If you request AADB information from me, I am glad to answer you, but it takes time--at least two weeks.

AADB, Inc.

Beginning Balance	\$1,750.52
Customer Deposits	2,867.00
	\$4,617.52
Expenditures	
Convention Program	- 1,837.68
THE VOICE 3/82	- 900.00
THE VOICE 9/82	- 475.00
Shipping - THE VOICE	- 112.00
Miscellaneous	- 5.16
Balance 12/31/82	\$1,287.68

VOICE FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 659.53
Customer Deposits	<u> 753.00</u>
Balance	\$1,412.53

AADB CONVENTION FUND

Beginning Balance	\$2,993.50
Customer Deposits	<u> 4,207.00</u>
Balance	\$7,200.50

Expenditures

Bank Originated Entry	- 72.00
Braille Convention Program	- 311.22
AADB Convention 1982	<u>-4,715.61</u>
Balance 12/31/82	\$2,101.67

DONATIONS - 10/1/82 - 12/31/82

Harry Anderson - AADB	\$100.00
David A. Anthony - AADB	2.00
John Carpenter - AADB	17.00
Central Jersey Club of The Deaf - AADB	50.00
Lois and John Dudik - AADB	4.00
Janet and Steve Ehrlich - AADB	10.00
Ronald W. Farris - AADB	25.00
Fred and Aslaug Haviland - AADB	50.00
Yukio Hirata - AADB	2.00

Richard Pacin for Legal	
Hold - AADB	\$ 72.00
Robert Powell - AADB	2.00
Margaret M. Reis - AADB	40.00
VOICE	60.00
Convention	60.00
Eugene R. and Ruth K.	
Steinberg - AADB	25.00
Xavier Society f/t Blind -	
VOICE	300.00
Totals for AADB	\$399.00
Totals for THE VOICE	360.00
Totals for AADB Convention	60.00
Grand Total	\$819.00

PLEDGES

Bob and Michelle Smithdas	\$200.00
Theresa Smith	25.00
Betty and Leonard Dowdy	25.00
Richard and Jeanette Weber	50.00
Emmie Hentz	50.00
Paul McGann	25.00
Scott Seigal	25.00
Kathy and Doug Wilbanks	50.00
Dale Kosier	25.00
Michael Levy	25.00

Arthur Roehrig (paid) - AADB	\$200.00
Jack and Julia Wright (paid) - AADB Convention	25.00

DONATIONS - 3/31/83

Austin Berkey - VOICE	\$ 25.00
Mildred Broman - AADB	2.00
American Foundation f/t Blind- AADB	10,000.00
Radio Information Service - VOICE	400.00
Richard Joy - AADB	22.00
Stephen Hay or Palmira Perea-Hay - AADB	25.00
Ramon E. Mondragon - AADB	10.00

McCAY VERNON HONORED
by
Sandra Waldman

March 26, 1983, was a very special day for the Lions of Western Maryland. On that day the Perry Hall-Kingsville Lions Club celebrated the 31st anniversary of the awarding of its charter with a gala dinner-dance at the Sparrow Point Country Club. Lions and their wives from far and wide came to join in the festivities.

The highlight of the evening came when Dr. McCay Vernon, Professor of Psychology at Western Maryland College, received the surprise of his life when he was advised that the Club was conferring on him the title of Honorary Lion, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in helping deaf-blind people and in encouraging Lions International to develop services to deaf-blind people. William Burkhouse, President of the Perry Hall-Kingsville Lions Club, presented the surprise award. Mr. Burkhouse, a strong supporter of services to deaf-blind people himself, also announced a generous donation the Club was making to Western Maryland College's program to train professionals to work with deaf-blind people.

Dr. Vernon is well-known to AADB members for his work on behalf of deaf-blind people and services for deaf-blind individuals. He is a long-time member of AADB, and has been a guest speaker at several of our conventions. He is recognized as an international authority on Usher's Syndrome, and is the innovator of the Master's Degree program in the area of deaf-blindness at Western Maryland College

All members will join with us in offering our congratulations to Dr. Vernon, both for his outstanding work with deaf-blind people and on his receiving this special honor.

GALLAUDET COLLEGE'S PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES FOR DEAF-BLIND PERSONS

by

Arthur A. Roehrig

Gallaudet College has been involved in working with deaf-blind persons since the early 1970's, providing deaf-blind and hearing-vision impaired individuals the opportunity to continue their education and to participate in various programs and activities within their community. Two offices on campus which deal with the problems and needs of deaf-blind people are the Student Special Services and the Hearing-Vision Impaired Programs.

STUDENT SPECIAL SERVICES

The Student Special Services (SSS) is primarily responsible for providing support services to hearing impaired students having additional disabilities such as visual impairment, cerebral palsy, and

orthopedic disabilities. Having qualified for admission to the College, these students are able to apply for admission to Gallaudet's undergraduate and/or graduate programs with support services provided through the SSS. The SSS designs and coordinates the support services to help students meet their specific needs, thus permitting them to acquire the same educational opportunities as their peers who have normal hearing and/or normal vision. Should a deaf-blind student need services to facilitate his/her participation in class, the SSS can help by providing interpreters, notetakers, lab aides, and braille transcriptionists for brailleing notes and tests. Over 50 students with varying degrees of hearing and visual losses are currently enrolled in either the undergraduate or graduate program at Gallaudet.

In addition, specialized Visualtek reading/writing machines are available 24 hours a day for student use in the SSS office. These machines are also located in the library and other buildings on campus during working hours. Tests and other educational materials are provided in braille and large print. Additional

services include orientation-mobility trainers, trained aides for deaf-blind students, off-campus transportation, and specialized exam procedures.

The SSS also serves faculty and staff on the campus of Gallaudet College by making reasonable accommodations for students.

In sharing information and technical assistance pertaining to various disabilities, the SSS helps foster an atmosphere of awareness and acceptance. The SSS also cooperates with other campus support services such as the Counseling and Placement Center, the Library, the Tutorial Center, Health Services, etc., to insure accessibility to these facilities for hearing impaired students having additional disabilities.

For additional information, contact:
Student Special Services
Ely Center
Gallaudet College
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 651-5405

HEARING-VISION IMPAIRED PROGRAMS

Another office on campus serving the needs of hearing-vision impaired people is the Hearing-Vision Impaired Programs

(HVIP), a unit within the College for Continuing Education. Focusing primarily on the population outside Gallaudet, the office offers educational programs and consultation services to hearing-vision impaired persons, families, professionals, and other concerned individuals at national, state, and local levels.

HVIP consists of five major components: 1) Community Education, 2) Family Education, 3) Outreach and training, 4) Consultation and Referral Services, and 5) Materials Development and Information.

1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION: Designed specifically for hearing-vision impaired people living in the Metro Washington area, this component includes:

a) Educational courses and recreational activities offered each semester, content determined by the individualized needs and preferences of the hearing-vision impaired population;

b) Special topics in awareness and advocacy presented to help promote an awareness of legal and consumer rights, new technological developments, and available resources in areas of deaf-blindness;

c) Support services provided for those hearing-vision impaired people

participating in classes and activities designed for deaf adults.

The goal of the community education component is to allow hearing-vision impaired people the opportunity to continue their education and to stimulate direct leadership among hearing-vision impaired people through their involvement in workshops and seminars, social and cultural activities, and associations of hearing-vision impaired, hearing impaired, and vision impaired citizens.

2) FAMILY EDUCATION: This component consists of the Family Learning Vacation (FLV) program and Family Contact Services. The FLV is offered every summer to families with children having both a hearing and visual impairment. Designed to provide information and support, this program affords families an opportunity to share experiences and receive professional guidance in such areas as education, genetics, counseling, and career choice. Recreational activities augment the sessions. The FLV programs are offered in D.C. and selected locations nationwide, depending on the number of families applying.

Family Contact Services offers such services as home visits within the

D.C. area, and weekend workshops and/or individual/group consultation services available throughout the year in various locations across the country. The weekend workshops cover special topic areas of concern to families of hearing-vision impaired children.

3) OUTREACH AND TRAINING PROGRAMS:

The purpose of this component is to advocate for improved professional services for hearing-vision impaired individuals and families, and to foster public awareness and responsiveness to their problems and needs. The program includes:

- a) Lectures, seminars, and workshops;
- b) In-service training;
- c) Graduate and undergraduate classes.

These services provide professionals the opportunity to increase their understanding and knowledge about hearing-vision impaired people and to broaden their services to include new skills and techniques used for hearing-vision impaired people in such areas as education, rehabilitation, medicine, interpreting, and social work. The determination of topics is dependent upon the needs of those

participating, with duration varying in length from one hour to three days.

4) CONSULTATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES:

Consultative and referral services are offered to individuals, families, agencies and other groups seeking information and/or advice in various areas of deaf-blindness. Consultative assistance can be provided to agencies and institutions establishing similar programs in such areas as communication skills, educational and program planning, and personnel training, or for improving current services to deaf-blind individuals.

5) MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT AND

INFORMATION: Materials pertaining to deaf-blindness are developed through the office of HVIP. A brochure "Steps for a Deaf Person's Adjustment to Usher's Syndrome" is currently in preparation for publication. Written in two sections, Section I is a clarification of Usher's Syndrome, with Section II discussing the process of adjustment to this condition.

Names and addresses of national/community resources serving hearing-vision impaired persons have been compiled for referral purposes. Bibliographies are also maintained as reference sources.

In addition, various materials are selected for transcription into braille and/or large print. These include such publications as The Joy of Signing by Dr. Lottie Riekehof and Sign Language Flash Cards by Harry and Shirley Hoemann. Brailled and available to the public, these materials are also used in HVIP's beginning sign language classes for hearing-vision impaired and vision impaired students.

For further information, contact:
Hearing-Vision Impaired Programs
College for Continuing Education
Gallaudet College
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 651-5541/TDD or
(202) 651-5542/Voice

EMPLOYMENT AT THE SEATTLE LIGHTHOUSE

by

Arlene Motulsky

I was asked to talk about the Seattle Lighthouse and also my perspective on issues involved in deaf-blind people finding employment outside the sheltered workshop setting.

I will begin by explaining what goes on at the Lighthouse in Seattle. It is a large workshop. About 150 legally blind people are employed there, 20 who are deaf-blind.

The workshop includes four departments: 1) A large sewing department where power sewing machine operators manufacture flags, packs, sleeping bags and many other products are made; 2) A large machine shop where workers operate power equipment to manufacture ladders, easels, handtrucks, Boeing aircraft parts, clipboards, paper trimmers and other products; 3) The housewares department involving assembly and packaging jobs; and 4) The vocational/educational department that provides training in independent living skills and communication skills along with vocational training for blind multi-handicapped people. Wages at the Lighthouse range from minimum wage up to \$8.00/hour.

There are many support services for the deaf-blind people who work at the Lighthouse and for deaf-blind people in the area. These support services include interpreting, counseling and teaching.

Most of the teaching is in groups, small groups of three or four, or large

groups of 10 to 15. In the past, most teaching was on a one-to-one basis, including instruction in sign language or English, braille, or tactile mode of receiving signs. Now the teaching is in groups because deaf-blind people want to develop communication with each other and have a format for getting information such as current events and community resources. The format is also used for having drama, yoga or cooking classes.

All services are geared towards deaf-blind people having opportunities and experiences making decisions, being assertive, and solving problems and taking control of their lives. Over the last five years, there has developed a strong feeling among the deaf-blind people of being connected to a part of a community.

It started with monthly recreational activities. Several people here were involved from the beginning: Steve Ehrlich, Theresa Smith, Ruth Coppersmith. During these five years this has evolved and now deaf-blind people plan their own social activities and usually get together every week or two weeks for eating out or disco dancing, going out to a bar, hiking, and lots of other events.

In the past year the deaf-blind people in the Seattle area have formed an organization called "Washington State Deaf-Blind Citizens, W.S.D.B.C." The vice president, Don Meyer, and the treasurer, Dale Kosier, are both here at the convention. The W.S.D.B.C. meets regularly to work on issues such as housing and the process of incorporation.

For the group classes, social events and the W.S.D.B.C. meetings, we use lots of interpreters. At Seattle Central Community College, the Interpreter Training Program has many well-trained student interpreters who can get plenty of practice interpreting hours in the deaf-blind community. Every year there are more than 6,000 hours of volunteer interpreting from these students and other deaf and hearing signers in the community.

Now, focusing back on the topic of employment: I think a sheltered workshop has both negative and positive sides to it. The negative aspect, I think, is that feeling of being labeled "blind," therefore quickly put into a blind workshop. Deaf-blind people communicate with each other, but cannot communicate with blind people most of the time.

The work itself is great for some people. But obviously not all deaf-blind people want to do the kinds of work available in a sheltered workshop. A person might end up at the Lighthouse because of being deaf-blind, not because there is a desire to do this kind of work.

In thinking it over and talking with many deaf-blind people, I realized some very positive aspects of a sheltered workshop. Many deaf-blind people want to be together rather than isolated in their place of employment. In a central place there is easy access to support services.

Deaf-blind people have been able to more quickly become independent, able to solve problems, make plans, find a social life, and so a community emerged more quickly. The most important part of this is the feeling, sense of belonging to a group, to a community of deaf-blind people, a feeling really of "family" of supporting one another.

This means allowing oneself to take risks, try something even if you might fail - knowing there are others around to support you if you fail, knowing others have failed and are still alive. This means knowing you can succeed, too - seeing others do it and having the opportunities to make it work.

Now, deaf-blind people moving into Seattle can look for work outside the Lighthouse and still join the community. Working alone is a lot more bearable if evenings and weekends are busy with a social life. There are only a few people working in competitive employment in Seattle. But this is changing because of the community.

Deaf people and deaf services know deaf-blind people. An office called "Projects with Industry" (PWI) that works with deaf people for finding jobs is open to working with deaf-blind people and all of the counselors know deaf-blind people through workshops and socially. Services for the Deaf know deaf-blind people. Even banks, restaurants, and bus drivers know deaf-blind people.

Deaf-blind people have a community together, and as it strengthens, it connects more with the deaf community and with neighborhood communities. This should lead to the work community, too, opening up more options. Over the past many years deaf-blind people around the country have made important advancements; entering new fields of employment such as education, counseling, computers and data processing.

Many deaf-blind people are now aware of options. I've heard deaf-blind people say, "What can a deaf-blind person do?" Suppose a deaf-blind person asks a V.R. counselor or Commission for the Blind counselor that question - "What can a deaf-blind person do?"

The counselor thinks--That's a good question. Maybe she knows a deaf-blind person in computer training and suggests it as a possible direction. The computer training program at Ohlone has opened a terrific new field, and because of Rod's and others' work, when a person wants to enter the computer field now, the struggle is reduced. Some of the barriers are dissolved. It has also opened more possibilities for deaf-blind people to go to college there and choose other fields. It's a door open. There are many others that need opening.

Back to the question of "What can deaf-blind people do?" I think it's a lousy question. A better question is, "What do you want to do? Do you want to work with people or machines, have a boss or run your own business?" That's the first question. What do you want: machine work, business, engineering, science, own a restaurant, cook, be a lawyer, wash dishes..

I would like to see V.R. counselors and deaf-blind people themselves starting with that question "what?" Then comes the "how" and there will be obstacles. From talking with many deaf-blind people and counselors who specialize in job search for deaf-blind people, again and again I hear it is the attitude that is the barrier. It is not mobility, not communication, but attitude. When entering a training program or facing an employer who is ignorant or condescending, it's a drag - it's frustrating.

One thing we can do is be ready with specific information:

- How are you going to communicate with me?

- When will we write, or print on palm or use a a Tellatouch?

- When will we call an interpreter?

- Where will we get an interpreter?

- How am I going to get around the work place?

- How will I get to work on time?

These may seem so obvious to us, but this type of information is important. Without it, there is ignorance and this means discrimination. I think we can fight some of the ignorance.

One more thing before I close. Again back to the question of what do you want. How do you decide what you want. That's hard for anyone, whether they are deaf, blind, sighted, hearing or deaf-blind. Hearing-sighted people have more opportunities to look around, or to go to college without a goal - just to learn and check things out.

Why can't more deaf-blind people do that? One difficulty is that a hearing-sighted person knows in the back of his or her mind that there are options - that something can be found later when school is out. A deaf-blind person, in the back of the mind may feel there are no options.

Teachers and V.R. counselors often do not respect deaf-blind people's individuality, instead focusing on the disability. It is sad when deaf-blind people believe this and it's great that there are so many people here changing that attitude, refusing that attitude and speaking up. Like Michelle Smithdas said, teach the professionals, let them know who you are. As work opportunities expand, gradually deaf-blind people are beginning to think in the back of their minds--yes, there are options and possibilities.

To close, what I would really like to say is I think opening employment options is frustrating, slow and complex. I think there is tremendous importance in developing communication, a sense of belonging to a community, reducing isolation from people and from information that Dr. Vernon was discussing. And this will lead to opening options for work.

I would like to say to deaf-blind people to go for what you really want; and to professions, to ask deaf-blind people what they want - and then listen.

DEAF-BLIND SERVICES IN ONTARIO

by

Joan Mactavish

Thank you very much for inviting me to speak to you this morning. I have attended many of your Conventions since they began and in fact, was on the committee that revised your Constitution. So you see, I have a real interest in your Association.

You must appreciate that though I come from Canada, I live and co-ordinate a service in a very small area of that large country. We do not have a national centre for the disability of deaf-blindness, nor do we have one person or agency co-ordinating services for deaf-blind Canadians. I do this in Ontario only, although I receive phone calls and letters from different parts of Canada and also from other countries asking for advice.

Deaf-Blind Services is now a large department of the Ontario Division of The Canadian National Institute for the Blind. You must remember that in Canada there is one private agency offering a range of services for visually impaired persons. Any government department would refer a person to this agency for training. It is not unusual for an agency serving the blind to begin a service for deaf-blind. The Helen Keller Centre began you could say in the Industrial Home for the Blind.

The basic purpose of the service is to provide another person for a guaranteed amount of time to permit a deaf-blind person to lead a normal life. This is not a new idea. We all know that Helen Keller's life depended almost entirely on

another person from the time she was seven years old until she died. Helen Keller was the first to show what can be done with the right kind of help. We believe everyone who has the same disability as Helen Keller should have the same kind of help. They will not all become famous, but they will be able to do the things they want to do.

We thought a lot about what to call a person who provided this kind of help. Helen used the words "teacher" and "companion." We began with the double word "interpreter-guide." Now we call that person an "intervenor" and our service is "intervention." We took the name from the school that teaches deaf-blind children.

Intervention, like many English words, has different meanings. Our meaning is "good and accepted help." The word is made up of two Latin words - very old. "Inter" means "between," and "venio" means "to come." Think of yourself taking a walk and coming to a deep stream. You cannot cross. You see a log and place it from shore to shore. It "comes between" you and the other side which you could not reach before. Now you can cross over. Everyone in the world needs help of some

kind or another because there are things each of us cannot do for different reasons. Doctors, nurses, repairmen, are examples of people who come between us and something we cannot do or fix. Old people stay in their own homes when a home-maker can come regularly to do their shopping and help with cleaning. Deaf-blind people do not need people to do things for them, but to give them information and come between them and other people with whom they cannot communicate so they will not be misunderstood or left out of things. Intervenor form a bridge by substituting their eyes and ears to come between deaf-blind people and things they cannot do and to keep them active and interesting.

Not all people who have a hearing and vision loss within the definition of deaf-blindness need or want an intervenor. We only provide one when it is requested. In Ontario, we have 142 deaf-blind adults and 65 deaf-blind children. We have a staff of 21. Four of these persons are case-workers and have all the responsibility from the time of receiving a referral, to update information, evaluate the situation, and plan a program. In the beginning, they are counseling and teaching and also

providing a lot of direct intervention. As soon as possible, they will assign an intervenor to accomplish certain goals that have been agreed upon. In the cities of Toronto and Ottawa, we have full-time staff moving among the large number of deaf-blind people living there for different purposes such as shopping, conducting business, keeping appointments, reading and writing letters, bringing news, going to classes or activities, etc. The list is endless. In the countryside, we have to look for a person who will work a certain number of hours every week with the one deaf-blind person in his area.

Because the children are in school during the year, their intervention is provided by their teachers, counselors and aides. In the summertime, we hire an intervenor for every child to work with him so he will not stop learning. This summer, 69 children are receiving this service.

Our staff has received training mainly by experience. We have been developing this concept for several years. However, in addition to experience which usually begins in a volunteer role, the case managers are now required to be orientation

and mobility specialists, rehabilitationists, and skilled in all kinds of alternate communication methods. The case managers train the intervenors and we are presently attempting to formalize this training. I cannot emphasize enough how carefully we have chosen our staff. Degrees, diplomas, and certificates are the last thing we look at. There have to be special qualities, a deep capacity for caring, or they will not be suitable. They are secure enough in themselves to see themselves as a means to an end for someone else. They must raise his curiosity and motivate the deaf-blind person so that he is lifted out of that passive state that Linda referred to.

In Toronto and in Ottawa, we have two deaf-blind clubs: The Deaf-Blind Association of Toronto, and The Deaf-Blind Association of Ottawa. Some day we hope there will be a Canadian Association of Deaf-Blind. We had the beginning of this last summer when we had about 30 deaf-blind and as many intervenors from all across Canada attend a conference. This was planned and carried out by the DBAT as an International Year of Disabled Persons project. We never counted the hours that

intervenors spent preparing deaf-blind for this meeting: how to listen, how to vote, how to participate, how to take responsibility; procedures, describing problems that had to be resolved, etc.

Once a year there is a vacation period for deaf-blind at the CNIB Holiday Centre at Lake Joseph in Muskoka. We cannot afford, nor is there room to provide every deaf-blind with his own intervenor. This year, we had 30 deaf-blind and nine staff as intervenors, plus the regular camp staff, some of whom help out when they can. For the first time we offered courses in braille, typing, communication, and crafts. None of these conflicted with the recreational program, but were in addition to it. No one who signed up missed a single lesson.

An important factor in the development of our service is that it began as a service for deaf-blind. It was not an adaption of either services for the blind or the deaf. Our staff have never worked with any but deaf-blind people.

We feel strongly that, in addition to all we are presently doing, we have formed the beginning of a learning centre.

Because our staff have worked exclusively with deaf-blind people, they make the best teachers for deaf-blind people. One day we hope we will have the time and the financial resources which we hope will come shared by our federal and provincial governments, as well as the private sectors, to allow this to grow into a national learning and living centre for deaf-blind Canadians. In the meantime, it is our purpose to ensure that no deaf-blind person is alone (as Rod put it), and all deaf-blind persons are spared the isolation that Dr. McCay Vernon referred to.

FOR THOSE WHO THINK

by

Geraldine Lawhorn

For independent living, my first rule is--Don't turn down an invitation to dinner! You will notice that the last syllable of my first name spells dine. At a Chinese restaurant my fortune cookie said, "Life is a tragedy for those who feel, and a comedy for those who think."

Of course, "feel" does not refer to our precious sense of touch. It does mean those wasteful, harmful emotions. It is a tragedy if we feel resentment because people do not believe we can do anything. We can laugh, though, when we think of new ways--some say "funny ways"--to do difficult tasks and prove our abilities.

I maintain my own apartment in a Chicago highrise apartment building. I am grateful to all the research "think tanks" who provide devices that give me more and more independence once considered impossible. But I still have to think. Because I live on the 14th floor, I placed a magnetic marker on the frame of the elevator door on my floor. The kids took it. I glued a raised marker on the elevator frame. The maintenance men cleaned and polished that off. Finally, I hid a very small strip of transparent scotch tape on the inner edge of the elevator frame. No one can see it and it has remained there to mark my floor for the past five years. When neighbors see me get off the elevator on my floor, they can't understand how I know it is the 14th floor, and so they conclude I must be psychic.

Many totally blind people have felt the alarming uneasiness of waking during the night and not being sure if it was night or day. The uncertainty can continue all morning. It could be a tragedy to go down to the laundromat in the basement at one a.m., and then, at the police station, have to explain that I thought it was one o'clock in the afternoon. Think!

The American Foundation for the Blind sells a 24-hour timer. I purchased one. With 24 tactile markings, I can use the timer either as a clock that clearly indicates A.M. and P.M.; or I can attach an electric lamp to turn on automatically at 8:00 P.M., stay on all night and go off at 8:00 in the morning. If I awake during the night, feeling uncertain about the hours, I place my hand over the lamp. If the lamp is on, the warm bulb tells me it is night; if the lamp is off, it is day.

We feel frustrated because of the airline regulations on handicapped travelers. The new regulations, effective December 12, state that all airlines must assist handicapped passengers who make reasonable demands. Therefore, it is up to us to prepare to travel with as few demands as

possible. We can obtain in advance the booklets on Air Travel Safety and transcribe them into braille or large type.

Rehabilitation centers can give more training in mobility aboard an average carrier. Do we know where the washrooms and exits are located? Can we provide the attendants with simple methods for communicating with us? When we achieve as much travel independence as possible and make the facts known to the airlines, we should win equal rights to board a plane with or without a companion.

Do we feel afraid in a hotel room alone? A deaf-blind woman reports that the first thing she does when she checks into a hotel room is to have her guide give her a touch tour of the room, corridor and on to the nearest emergency exit. Knowing that she can get out alone if there is an emergency while her roommate is away, she is ready to enjoy her stay.

We are confident that we can cook, keep our homes neat and clean, take care of ourselves. For increased independence, however, we must think of dealing with the community--merchants, servicepeople, bankers, government officials, churches, recreation. We sometimes feel regret that we did not get a better education when we could see and

hear or when we were younger. That need not be a tragedy. The Hadley School for the Blind offers free education by mail to blind and deaf-blind adults. We can continue our education as long as we live. To study with the Hadley School, you do not need transportation, no companion-guide is necessary, you do not need an interpreter. But we do need to think!

And you are not limited to the department for hearing impaired; you are welcome to study braille, typing, home management, English, literature, mathematics, economics, business law, writing--more than 100 subjects to meet your individual needs.

A few deaf-blind people tell me that they feel reluctant to take correspondence courses because of poor English and lack of writing skills. Such a feeling is indeed tragic; it prevents progress. Our Hadley instructors are not there to condemn us for what we cannot do. Rather, they are there to help us learn and improve--now.

Our goal in independent living is not to be alone, but to get with it. Little independent nations do not exist alone. They educate and prepare themselves to be active members of the world. Yes, they need assistance. They also have something

to contribute. Just so, we must keep ourselves updated and capable of living within the community.

Dr. Robert J. Winn, the new president of the Hadley School, has been personally involved in work for the visually-hearing impaired. He told me that he is more than just interested in us. He intends to work for and with us. I promised Dr. Winn that we, the deaf-blind, would cooperate.

"Life is a tragedy for those who feel, and a comedy for those who think." So, let's think and enjoy life.

MY POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE

by

Henry L. Buzzard

Out of 44 years of independent living, I spent nine years as a college student earning two master's degrees. I worked as a map draft editor before starting my long career as a librarian. I have worked in three different locations as a librarian including Washington, D.C.; and White Plains, N.Y. I retired three years ago.

In my social activities, I was hindered by my inability to use sign language. I

encountered much prejudice against orally educated deaf persons while in Washington, D.C. I found more acceptance in New York City, so I became involved there by working on committee levels.

With my deaf wife, I shared the responsibility for raising a family of two hearing children--a son now in the Army and a daughter now interning in a mental health clinic.

What is the secret of my successful independent life? My positive self-esteem developed from three quotations and from my friends who were successful in their own lives and supported my efforts to achieve my goals with strength and confidence.

The first quotation--"You can have everything you want except one thing--to hear," was spoken to me by my teacher, Dr. Richard Silverman on my graduation at Central Institute for the Deaf. He told me that I had good thinking habits. In many situations this positive thinking has led me to create an image of myself as a successful person in spite of my hearing loss. You must be alone in order to think better. You must think on only one objective.

The second quotation--"I have not yet begun to fight," was strongly impressed to me by the same teacher while in my history class. This saying was made by an early naval hero, John Paul Jones, who was requested to surrender without a fight by his British enemy. Instead, he fought against a vastly superior enemy and won the battle. Throughout my life, I have frequently encountered overwhelming barriers before taking action. Many times I was good! In your thinking, you will find some barriers. Small or high, talk to your God or the invisible person whenever you meet one barrier. Put yourself as one against yourself and ask yourself questions. Then you answer them with positive feelings.

The third quotation--"Get out of the house and make your own friends," is credited to my mother who was alarmed to see me becoming a recluse in my room. With strong emphasis on her love and support, she suggested that I go out in the world and make friends. Whenever you feel lonely, get out of your place or shell and so something outside.

I have found the world full of smooth or rough paths; full of surprises or

disappointments; excitement or boredom. The majority of people I have met have been good to me with their positive support and assistance in my quest for successes. Having these three quotations in my mind, I have been confident in making decisions on new projects. I developed positive self-esteem first!

In conclusion, a positive self-image will open doors to problem-solving and to goal achievements. But once those doors are open, you must have discipline, determination, patience and persistence if problems are to be solved or if dreams are to become reality.

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

by

Jack Wright

I am happy to be here at the AACB convention to share some of my experiences and ideas with you. I was born deaf in a rural town in southwest Virginia. I attended Virginia School for the Deaf and graduated when I was 18. At that time, in the 1950's, I had no opportunity or

encouragement to attend college so I went out as soon as I graduated and found a job. I did not enjoy working in such a small town so I moved to several cities and finally decided to stay in the Washington, D.C., area where there were many other deaf people to communicate with. I found a job doing engraving (which I taught myself). I also worked in a leather repair shop and became very skilled at these two professions.

I worked at these jobs for ten years before I started to notice that I was having trouble measuring and reading small print. Finally, my boss noticed that I was making more and more errors and sent me to an eye doctor. The doctor told me I had retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and that my vision would get worse. I was not sure what that meant since I had no interpreter with me, but I showed the note to my boss and he immediately told me that I had one month left to keep my job. Soon after I was also fired from my other job.

I had no counselor or social worker and I did not know what the eye condition would do to my future since I had never met anyone with the same problem. I went to an unemployment office and they referred

me to the Commission for the Blind. In 1970 the Commission sent me to New York to the Industrial Home for the Blind which had a section for deaf-blind clients and which later became Helen Keller National Center. I did not feel they were helping me and all I really wanted was a job to support my family. I was very depressed at this time since all my hopes and plans for the future had been shot down. My vision continued to deteriorate and I was having trouble communicating and I could only read large print. I told the placement counselor at IHB that I really needed a job. He went down to Virginia and found three possible jobs: packing crates, sewing awnings, or working in a hospital laundry. I chose the hospital since it looked like the best idea. I worked at this job, folding and sorting laundry for five years. In 1976 I quit because of my failing vision and family problems and I went to HKNC.

I must tell you that up until this time I had never had a counselor or social worker who knew sign language. I could not read, or communicate visually and I felt really cut off from the world. Communication, in my own language, I found out was very important to me. At HKNC I

learned many important things: braille, cooking, cane travel, typing, and what Usher's Syndrome was really about. I also came to regret that I had never attended college. When I left HKNC, I was placed in a workshop for the blind temporarily until I was able to enter Gallaudet. However, I took the entrance exam and failed. Again I was devastated. I still had no skill I could use to find a job. I moved to Maryland where my wife had gotten a job. I went to Maryland Rehabilitation Center because I requested help in finding a job. Once again I was tested in braille, typing, cane travel, reading, etc., and while waiting for the test results during the three months I was there, I learned how to do chair caning for a hobby. When I left the rehabilitation center I still had no job and no job skills. I went to Job Opportunities for the Blind (part of NFB) and they found me a job in a workshop for the blind. I could not stand to stay at home all day and I felt like I had no future, so I accepted the job because I was desperate.

However, because I had almost no vision left, a new problem appeared --that of transportation. At first I got a ride with someone who lived near me. But after

a year I lost that ride and could not take the bus because I could not cross the street alone or see when the bus arrived. I was also bored with my job and was receiving workshop wages. Meanwhile, I had started to do some chair caning and found that it was interesting to me and also a good way to earn some extra money. When I had to quit my job this June because of transportation problems, with the encouragement of my wife and friends, I decided to try and start my own business.

I told you about my history because I have several important points to make. First of all, communication is the most important factor to consider in vocational planning. You must have an interpreter or counselor who can communicate in the means which are most comfortable for you. A skilled interpreter can mean the difference between success and failure. The AADB should encourage and train interpreters to work with the deaf-blind and this should be a priority, since they are our link to the rest of the world. In addition, rehab counselors must have experience in dealing with deaf-blind clients and must be familiar with Usher's Syndrome. Children

who have Usher's Syndrome must be identified early so that they can carefully plan their future and not get stuck like I did.

It is important for deaf-blind people to meet each other and share experiences. Most counselors or relatives have no idea of what a deaf-blind person can or can't do for a living. Meeting others in different occupations is important.

I feel that the worst thing that can happen to a deaf-blind person is "nothing." Doing nothing is suicidal. A job means more to us than it does to other people. It means keeping in touch, being a part of the world, living and being active. I would like to encourage all deaf-blind people to continue to work or look for work to keep strong and active.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH INDEPENDENT LIVING

by

Betty Dowdy

I have been totally deaf since birth and developed Retinitis Pigmentosa similar to that found in Usher's Syndrome later in my life. In spite of this affliction, I

was able to go through 8th grade in a private school for oral deaf children who were dependent on speaking and lipreading. I attended public high school as the only deaf person in a hearing class. After completing a secondary program, I enrolled at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., and graduated in the year 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree. While I was in college, I had a hard time reading textbooks and had much eye strain and many headaches. Thank God I was able to go through my schooling successfully.

When I went home, I found my mother dying of cancer, so I took over all household responsibilities for my father and me. I learned how to cook by trial and error. It took time to develop my skills in cooking.

In 1951, I started working at the Kansas Industries for the Blind to learn good socialization skills. I was able to accept my own handicap with no self pity. In 1953, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, sent me to Topeka, Kansas, to evaluate my potential for competitive employment. The staff was very impressed with my abilities. Shortly after testing, they found me a job at the

medical center where I have been working ever since. My occupation was as a nurse's aide. Years later my job was reclassified to hospital attendant.

In 1956, I met my future husband, Leonard Dowdy, in a club for the deaf which I previously attended on Saturdays. He impressed me with his independent way of living. In spite of being totally blind and deaf, he traveled around town by himself, lived in his own apartment, bought his groceries, cooked for himself, and had maintained a full-time job at Peterson Manufacturing Co. where he is still working. I was fascinated with his ability to read lips through the Tadoma method. I envied his skills in lipreading since I had trouble due to my weak sight at that time. We were married five months later and lived in a three-room apartment for five years before we finally decided to buy a home. We still live in our first home. We were completely independent for a while until my sight began to deteriorate rapidly. I began needing other people to read mail and other necessities. We installed fans in every room which were wired to the door bell and telephone. At first we taught

our friends to communicate with us over the phone in Morse code as we responded with voice. When we heard that Bob Smithdas had a TTY, we decided to have one also to talk with the deaf people in our community by phone. WOW!! The TTY brailler was a blessing for the deaf-blind to achieve a new level of independence.

Leonard had been dreaming for many years to own a workshop. He finally built one in our backyard. He is now my handyman. We usually could not find each other under the same roof. Leonard would walk all over. He finally came up with a good idea. He went to the door and rang the door bell. I felt the fan and came to see who was there. As for me, I tried to hunt him in our backyard but to no avail. So I marched right up to my neighbor to help me find Leonard. My neighbor said he was over there. I was shocked that he was on the roof repairing the gutters.

The Society for the Blind refused to grant us a seeing-eye dog due to the number of deaf-blind in our family. So we turned to the hearing ear dog program for help. Colorado Society of Hearing Ear Training Center (International Hearing Dog, Inc.)

accepted our application. Candy, our dog, helps us find each other, but is useless for the door bell or telephone because of the fans which confuse her.

Leonard and I have traveled to many events and have no problem using airplanes. We have flown in eight different airplanes to Hawaii with no problems at all.

For 21 years, I was able to cross the street by hearing traffic to get to work. One day I found to my dismay the city light department had installed self-regulated signal light so that I no longer could push the button on the pole to cross. I complained to the department. They sent an interviewer to solve my problem by accepting my suggestion. I asked for a buzzer where once was the button. It worked for me to get across.

These are but some of the skills I have acquired to attain a high level of independence within my home and work environments.

ADVOCACY AND THE DEAF-BLIND PERSON

by

Merv Garretson

With this seventh annual convention I believe the American Association of the Deaf-Blind has stabilized as an organization and is prepared to meet the challenge of independence. Along with the increasing number of success stories about deaf-blind people I note that more are matriculating in undergraduate and postgraduate collegiate studies. While there are other measures of success for a disabled person, earning a MA or a PhD certainly is an important accomplishment for an individual who is both deaf and blind.

In any approach to advocacy I believe it is important that we first have a broad base of understanding of both the historical and philosophical considerations in advocacy. To be sure, there is a need for all of us to vote and to be informed about legislative actions and trends. It is vital that we maintain contact with local, state, and federal legislators--through personal letters, face-to-face communication, mailing of organizational letters and press releases, and that we collaborate

with other groups like the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD), the American Council of the Blind (ACB), and various other organizations. This may also be an appropriate time to begin studying a networking approach, which is being developed by the NAD and a number of other advocacy groups.

Just what is advocacy? Who is an advocate? By definition, to advocate means to plead, to argue, to address an issue, a problem, or to promote a cause--for oneself, for another person, or for a group.

In general we are all advocates at one time or another throughout our lives. Each day we practice some simple form of self advocacy. For breakfast, you may insist on fried eggs instead of cereal. You may advocate for English muffins instead of toast. However unromantic it may sound, even a marriage proposal is a form of self advocacy. Applying for a job and being interviewed for employment is a selling or promoting of oneself.

A second type of advocacy is pleading on behalf of another person. A common example would be that of a lawyer defending

a client. This is professional or career advocacy, as is lobbying. However, many of us are lay advocates on a day to day basis. We may write a letter of reference for someone, nominate a person for office in some organization or club, and give a nominating speech in support of his or her candidacy, or advocate individual politicians for state or federal elective offices.

The third and probably most important aspect of advocacy for all of us is group advocacy. Here we are speaking for large numbers of people who have common concerns, interests, problems and needs. The typical approach is through an organization or coalition such as labor unions in various countries as with the Solidarity movement in Poland. Other active group advocates are the NAD, the Council for Exceptional Children, the ACCD, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Organization of Women (NOW), and local, state, and other associations.

As we focus on group needs and rights of deaf-blind persons, I believe a brief look at history may help us understand where we have been and where we are now. Such a perspective should underline the importance

and necessity of continuing group advocacy on behalf of deaf-blind people from all of us, deaf-blind, nondisabled, and others.

During the colonial days of our country young Americans with disabilities did not always survive. And if they did manage to get through the harsh environment of their early years, what kind of a life could they expect as adults? Although physically and mentally handicapped people received sympathy as blameless victims of fate, they were also looked down on as financial burdens to the township. Local communities in the 17th and 18th centuries maintained public almshouses where the disabled were placed with the poor, the incompetent, the village drunk, and the aged and infirm. They were provided with sufficient food and shelter to remain alive but were given little hope or encouragement for self improvement. Parents and protective and religious organizations also shared the responsibility with the township. But in those days disability meant dependence, not independence.

As time passed, with advances in medicine and other developments, more disabled children survived. Adults who had lost their hearing, sight, or limbs

through illness or accident were able to benefit from medical treatment, prosthetic devices, or rehabilitation programs. As the disabled population increased, they, their friends, and professionals closely associated with them began to perceive and accept the reality that they could work and had potential similar to nondisabled people.

Still, as a group, disabled individual continued to be underemployed, somewhat sheltered, and looked upon as second-class citizens. The general attitude toward them was paternalistic if not outright patronizing. The 19th century had moved a step forward with the introduction of special asylums or institutions for the deaf, the blind, the mentally retarded, and the mentally ill. But it was a small step. We have all read the horror stories of these "snake pits" for the mentally ill. And the kind of life facing many deaf persons in the 1920's is starkly narrated by Joanne Greenberg in her novel, *In This Sign*.

In the 1960's equal rights movements among ethnic minorities began to make an impact. The Civil Rights Act of 1964

outlawed racial discrimination, and later Title IX legislated against discrimination based on sex. The effectiveness of this advocacy signaled to the disabled community that as a minority group they too had rights as citizens for equality, opportunity, and dignity within society.

A major step forward for legal rights of disabled people was achieved with enactment by Congress of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its Section 504. Another fairly recent law was P.L. 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, which guarantees a free and appropriate education to all handicapped children of the country. The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals followed in May, 1977, with a long catalogue of recommendations for action.

Inherent in the philosophy and practice of all educational and rehabilitation programs for the deaf-blind is a commitment to promote the rights and well being of deaf-blind people so that they may achieve their maximum potential and function within society. This assumes a framework of advocacy for deaf-blind persons and a high degree of involvement with, and respect for, deaf-blind persons.

Successful advocacy requires a philosophy of positive convictions and actions which lead toward 1) resolution of issues or problems; 2) improvements in individual or group circumstances, and 3) changes in existing systems to make them more responsive and responsible to those they were designed to serve.

Negative advocacy rarely achieves desired objectives. This might be illustrated by the Iranian seizure of the American embassy in Tehran, incidences of terrorism, strikes that become destructive or disruptive, or attacking individuals personally rather than addressing an issue. Such tactics frequently backfire or boomerang, resulting only in bitterness and increasing opposition.

Positive advocacy requires a continuing awareness and adherence to the ultimate objective or goal. What are we trying to accomplish? A positive approach means a cooperative attitude, and even a willingness to compromise at some point if necessary to gain an immediate goal. However, occasionally a group may find itself constantly ignored by an unresponsive majority or authority, then firmer steps

may be called for, as with the civil rights marches of the 1960's, and the sit-down strike by disabled people when the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare refused to sign the regulations for Section 504.

Effective advocacy requires responsibility, tone, and an ability and willingness to think through the entire process. It may be indirect or even subtle. Advocacy may be situational. For example, should the issue or problem relate to one's work environment, to the immediate vicinity, or to one's own neighborhood where there is frequent, everyday contact, a low-keyed and gradual advocacy stance may be more effective than a confrontational or militant approach. On the other hand, if it be a one-time only situation such as a national seminar, a regional conference, or an appointment with a highly-placed state or federal official, then the approach might be stronger and even aggressive. One needs to know when to push and when to hold back.

Positive advocacy may not always produce immediate results, but may accomplish real and lasting changes. Little is accomplished when we win a couple of battles but lose the war. It took years to undo

the damage of the Milan Conference of 1880 which placed oralism firmly in the driver's seat of deaf education for nearly a century. Because of early subtle and persistently increasing efforts through the 1950's and 1960's, today total communication has emerged as a powerful philosophy not only in the United States but in other nations as well.

Let me tell you about a recent advocacy experience in Maryland. About three years ago the Maryland Association of the Deaf initiated a bill in the state legislature to provide mental health services for deaf people in Maryland. The first time the bill came up it failed to pass. So the following year the organization increased its contacts and efforts, gaining passage of the bill by a strong margin the second year. However, when the Governor later faced a budget crisis, among programs deleted from appropriations funds was the mental health program. When repeated appeals to the Governor failed to get reinstatement, the association staged a protest march around the State Capitol and the Governor's mansion in Annapolis. It was a bitterly cold Saturday in December, but the media was present, and talks were

given by various individuals. The Governor finally agreed to a conference with representatives of the Maryland Association of the Deaf, and eventually restored the funding. Carrying this advocacy program to its final culmination, the Association later threw a wine-and-cheese party at the Capitol honoring the Governor and the state legislators.

So, in summary, communication of advocacy is many things. It is assertiveness, climate development, giving talks to parents, service clubs, other groups, preparing testimony for hearings of the state legislature or the United States Congress, writing letters to the editor, publishing articles on deaf-blindness, doing research, making films or TV programs, interacting with people. We need to increase our visibility and contacts with the general population, with our neighbors, community groups, libraries. We need to stop talking only to ourselves.

So many things go into successful advocacy. What may work today may not work tomorrow. What works with one individual or group may not work with another. So we have no formula other than sincerity,

belief in our cause, commitment, willingness to support our organizations, keeping our objectives before us, flexibility with firmness. With the vast changes created by today's computer society and the possibility of still further changes from the Reagan people, as in Mathew Arnold's lines in his poem, "Dover Beach," we are caught between two worlds--one dead, and the other struggling to be born.

ROBERT'S RULES SEMINAR
by
Edward G. Schaumberg, III

Every meeting should have an agenda. It helps get the work done, especially when there are guest speakers on a time schedule. Each member has the right to know at what meeting and at what time a specific subject will be discussed so he can be there for important discussion and votes. Provide in your agenda for unfinished business. When the time arrives to take up a matter specially set for a specific time, the Chair announces that

fact. Then he puts to a vote any pending question with no more debate unless you move to lay it on the table, postpone it or send it to a committee. You can also carry a matter over to the time you set for unfinished business.

SAMPLE AGENDA

1. Invocation then Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome address

3. For each meeting - each day

a. Time of opening and closing

b. The order in which things are to come up--give plenty of time for important things.

4. Reports of officers as listed in the Bylaws

a. If they are for information only, print and hand out, don't read.

b. But call for questions

5. Reports of Boards--same as for officers

6. Reports of Committees--if for information only, bring up in succession at the same point in the meeting. Save time by printing reports in advance, then don't read them aloud. The Chair should call the name of each committee in sequence, then pause for questions.

7. Committees with resolutions or motions come next.

8. Unfinished business

9. New business

10. Announcements--just before you adjourn

Call for a recess for meals then adjourn at the end of each day. The second and each following day, read the minutes of the day before. Business not finished from the day before can be taken up after reading the minutes until the time for business set for a specific time. Make last minute changes in the agenda, then vote to adopt it for the day and follow it.

DEBATE

To keep agency and meeting on track.

1. Unless a shorter or longer time is set by the group, each person may speak for ten minutes.

2. If two people want to speak, and one has already spoken on the resolution, the Chair should recognize the other person.

DECORUM IN DEBATE

1. Confine remarks to the merits of the pending question--you are intruding on the rights of others if you are trying to solve a problem.

2. Refrain from attacking a member's motives.

3. Address all remarks through the Chair.

4. Avoid use of member's names.

5. Refrain from speaking adversely on a prior action not pending.

6. Refrain from speaking against your own motion.

7. Read from reports, quotations, etc., only without objection or with permission of the group.

8. Be seated during an interruption by the Chair.

9. Refrain from disturbing the assembly.

MEEINGS BY MAIL

1. Follow your bylaws' procedure

2. Dates

a. Get it out with enough time to answer--usually 30 days.

b. Get it back by a specific date.

c. Mail the results back to the voters.

If votes are not secret, send:

1. Printed ballot with space for voter's signature and instructions for marking and returning by the required date.

2. Special self-addressed return envelope with name and address of secretary, chairman of tellers, or other person designated to receive the marked ballots.

3. State that you assume they are in agreement if the vote is not back by "date." Bylaws need to permit voting by mail.

THE HKNC JOB BANK

by

Melissa Raue

An idea that has been around the Helen Keller National Center for some time is that of having a job bank. This would be an information source of jobs that deaf-blind people do and also a list of employers of deaf-blind workers. This could be helpful to many different groups of people.

On the simplest level, it would make it possible to give a quick answer to questions about deaf-blind workers like: "Are there any deaf-blind secretaries?" (Not that I know of.) "What kind of professional jobs can a deaf-blind person do?" (We know of a psychologist, teachers, etc.) "How many people born deaf-blind

working in industry are there in Louisiana?" We would have this type of information on a computer that would search very quickly through all its files and pull out the ones that fit into all these categories.

The job bank could also help deaf-blind people who are looking for a job or trying to decide what kind of work they would like to do. We could tell them if people who have similar hearing and visual losses have done a particular job, and in what kind of company or workshop.

The best thing that could happen would be if this job bank were "living"--growing and changing. This would be the case if people used it, added to it, and changed information as necessary. This is what we hope for.

Helen Keller National Center cannot do this alone; we need everyone who is able to help us gather the information.

Will you help? A questionnaire asking for some information follows this article. We at Helen Keller ask you to answer the questions and send it back to us. If for some reason you do not want to answer a particular question, but would like to help, answer the others and write "not available"

or make an "X" in the one you do not want to answer. This will show us that you saw the question but are not answering. Otherwise we might think you forgot it or missed it.

If you have ever worked as a deaf-blind person, please fill out the questionnaire. If you know a deaf-blind worker who does not the "The Voice," share the questionnaire with them and ask them to answer it.

A lot of good things can happen if everyone who can, helps us. I would be happy to share the information we find (only the parts which are not private, of course).

Please send completed questionnaires to:

Melissa Raue
Placement Specialist
Helen Keller National Center
111 Middle Neck Road
Sands Point, New York 11050

JOB BANK QUESTIONNAIRE

(If you wish to answer the questionnaire, please use a separate sheet of paper and return your answers to Melissa Raue at the Helen Keller National Center.)

Your name _____

Your address _____

Have you worked? Yes _____ No _____

Where _____

Name of workplace

Address

What is your job? _ _ _ _ _

Do you still work there? Yes ___ No ___

How long _____

Have you had other jobs? Yes ___ No ___

What were they? _ _ _ _ _

Which of these best describes your vision?

Totally blind _____

Light perception only _____

Can see more than light but not enough
to read large print _ _ _ _ _

Can read large print _ _ _ _ _

Can read regular print _ _ _ _ _

Do you have a problem with peripheral (side)
vision? Yes _____ No _____

How do you receive communication (check
as many as apply):

See signs/fingerspelling _ _ _ _ _

See lip movements _ _ _ _ _

Read print _ _ _ _ _

Feel signs/fingerspelling _ _ _ _ _

Use Tellatouch _ _ _ _ _

Hearing _ _ _ _ _

Other _ _ _ _ _

How did you lose your vision:

Born with problem _ _ _ _ _

Gradually lost vision as child _ _ _ _ _

Suddenly lost vision as child _ _ _ _ _

Gradually lost vision as adult _ _ _ _ _

Suddenly lost vision as adult _ _ _ _ _

How do you express communication (check all
that apply):

Sign _ _ _ _ _

Fingerspell _ _ _ _ _

Speak _ _ _ _ _

Write _ _ _ _ _

Other _ _ _ _ _

What is your highest level of education:

Less than 6th grade _ _ _ _ _

Less than 12th grade _ _ _ _ _

High school graduate _ _ _ _ _

Some college _ _ _ _ _

College graduate _ _ _ _ _

Some graduate school _ _ _ _ _

Have advanced degree _ _ _ _ _

What other training do you have?

Vocational technical school _ _ _ _ _

How long _ _ _ _ _

Rehabilitation program _ _ _ _ _

How long _ _ _ _ _

On-the-job training _ _ _ _ _

How long _ _ _ _ _

Other _ _ _ _ _

How long _ _ _ _ _

Do you live alone _ _ _ _ _

With husband or wife _ _ _ _ _

With other family members _ _ _ _ _

With friends _ _ _ _ _

In group home or special residence _ _ _

Can we contact you to ask more?

Yes _ _ _ _ _ No _ _ _ _ _

What is your telephone/TDD number? _ _ _ _ _

From: Rodrick Macdonald
AADB President
1220 E-W Highway, #711
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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